

Eva Rothschild

1972 - present

Eva Rothschild was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1972. She studied Fine Art at the University of Ulster in Belfast and in 1999 completed an MA in Fine Art at Goldsmith's College in London. She currently lives and works in London and has three sons.



Eva Rothschild works primarily as a sculptor, using varied materials such as steel, concrete, Jesmonite, fibreglass, Plexiglas, leather, polystyrene, wood and paper. In her work, she explores shape and space. Her works vary in scale, from small to monumental.

In 2009, she was commissioned to create her first large-scale artwork at Tate Britain. She created the huge metal sculpture, 'Cold Corners', made up of 26 enormous triangles that visitors walked through. It was made using 1.8 tonnes of aluminium box tubing. She designed the sculpture after watching visitors interact with the building and sketching ideas.

In 2012, Rothschild made a film for the Tate, exploring how young boys would interact with her artwork. Her film shows a group of boys, aged between 6 and 12, each entering a gallery full of her sculptures. They start by looking and touching the sculptures, before completely dismantling them and playing with the pieces.

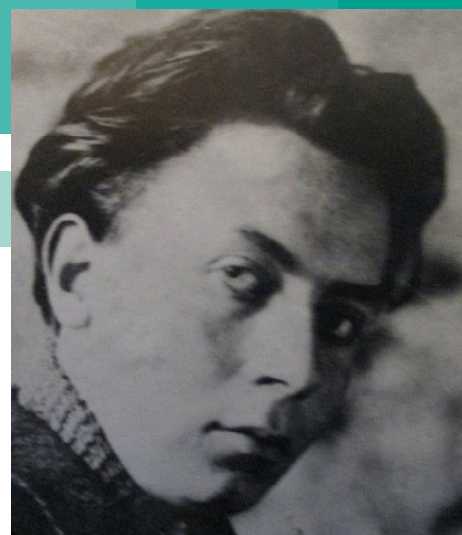
Rothschild has exhibited her work all over the world and continues to create abstract sculptures that vary in their colour, size and materials.

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Robert Delaunay

1885 - 1941

Robert Delaunay was born in Paris to a rich and important family. After his parents divorced he lived with his Aunt and Uncle. His family were happy that he wanted to be an artist and gave him money to help him on his way so he was able to work as a professional painter when he was just 19.



In 1910 he married Sonia Terk, a Russian who was also a painter and designer, and they had a son. Together they travelled around Europe. They worked closely with other artists, developing new theories about light and colour and how, as painters, they could best express them through art.

Robert and Sonia Delaunay supported each other and often worked together. As they thought of new ideas, they developed a new style of painting, called Orphism. Orphism is a kind of abstract art that uses very bright colours and lots of simple shapes like circles, triangles and squares. The Delaunays wanted their work to express joy, movement and music.

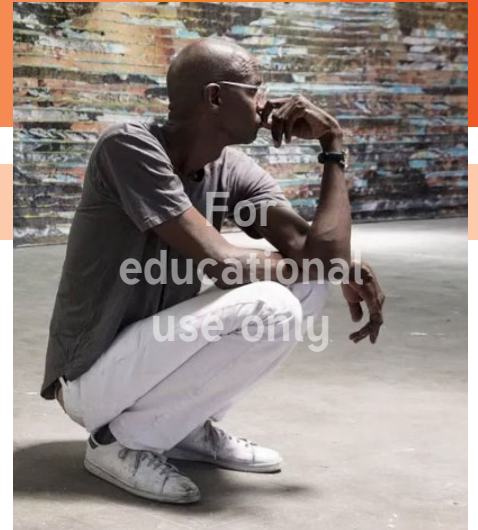
Together the Delaunays expressed their new style through painting, textiles, interiors, and, in the theatre, stage and costume design. They are remembered as one of the most successful husband and wife teams in art.



Mark Bradford

1961 – present

Mark Bradford was born in Los Angeles in 1961. His artistic influence appeared at a young age, while working at his mother's hair salon after High School where he gained a hairdresser's license. Even today, many hairdressing materials, such as dye and foil, are used in his works.



Bradford studied Fine Art at the California Institute of the Arts in 1991 at the age of 30 but according to him, he hasn't really touched a brush since he went to university. His style is modern abstract art and is known for grid-like abstract paintings combining collage with paint.

His work also consists of many other mediums including video, installations and sculptures. Bradford says, "I decided to make a three-dimensional painting that doesn't have a frame around it. It's the same fragments of paper, just less formal. It's part sculpture, part painting—an in-between thing."

Bradford frequently transforms materials scavenged from the streets into huge collages and installations, often the same size as one wall. Sometimes, he does these artworks live with an audience which is now known as performance art.

His themes revolve around society, and explore race, gender, and class. These works of art have been created to provoke people and let them think about the issues of the world. Bradford has received several recognitions, including the National Medal of the Arts from the US Senate.

"Mark Bradford -- 'Pickett's Charge' at the Hirshhorn Museum (DC) November 2017" by Ron Cogswell and

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Dame Barbara Hepworth

1903 – 1975

Dame Jocelyn Barbara Hepworth DBE was an English artist and sculptor. She was part of the modernism movement – a group who wanted to experiment with new techniques and draw attention to the process involved in making a work of art. She is one of the most famous female artists and is known all over the world. She is known for her modern sculptures, made from materials such as stone, wood and bronze.



Jocelyn Barbara Hepworth was born in 1903 in Wakefield, Yorkshire. In 1921, she won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art and studied there until 1924. Later, Hepworth travelled to Italy, where she met and married sculptor John Skeaping. It was also in Italy where she learned how to carve marble from master sculptor Giovanni Ardini.

At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Hepworth and her family moved to Saint Ives in Cornwall. She enjoyed working in the open air and space and began to make more work in bronze, using her garden to view her work outdoors.

In 1960, Hepworth bought a cinema and dance studio that was across the street from her studio. She used this new space to create her large-scale sculptures. She also began to experiment with a printing method called lithography, producing several sets of prints in the 1970s.

Hepworth lived and worked in Saint Ives until she died in an accidental fire at her studios in 1975, at the age of 72. People can visit Trewyn Studio, which is still as she left it, with the workshop full of her tools, equipment and materials. The garden is full of some of her favourite sculptures.



"Barbara Hepworth Museum" by Herry Lawford (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence [CC BY 2.0](#)

Wassily Kandinsky

1866 - 1944

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Odessa, Russia, in 1866. As a child, he studied drawing and learnt to play the piano and the cello. At University, he studied Economics and Law and after had a successful career teaching law to other students. At the age of 30, he was appointed to the post of Professor of Law at Derpt University. Despite his success, he left his role as Professor and enrolled himself in art school.



At art school Kandinsky was exposed to many aspiring artists at an exciting time in art history. There were lots of new ideas and new theories about how painting should develop. Kandinsky became a prominent art theorist, focusing particularly on theories of colour. He had new ideas about what colours mean and how they make people feel. He believed that colours had a soul. He was also very interested in the connection between colour and sound, believing that music could be seen through colour, and colour heard through music. Often he would listen to music while he painted and try to paint what he heard.

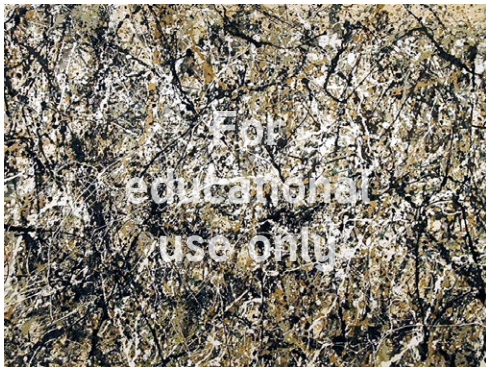


Many people believe that Kandinsky was the founder of abstract art, because he was the first painter to stop painting representational pictures and instead paint pictures with no recognisable subjects. He believed that this let him be free to express complex emotions. All the abstract artists that followed Kandinsky were heavily influenced by his work.

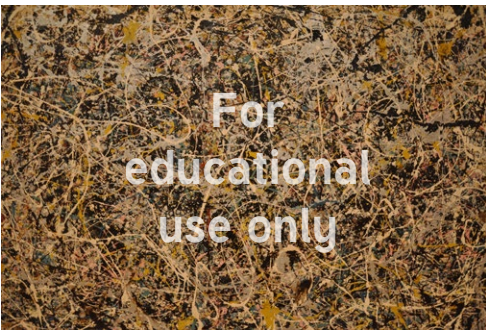
Jackson Pollock

1912 - 1956

Jackson Pollock was born in 1912, the youngest of five sons. He didn't have a very happy childhood. His father travelled a lot due to work and the family moved house often. He got into a lot of trouble at school and was expelled from high school twice.



"Jackson Pollock" by Dale Cruse @flickr is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Jackson Pollock" by Nick Webb @flickr

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When he was 18 he moved to New York to live and study with his brother Charles, who was an artist. His brother and their teacher inspired him to be a painter. He spent the next years experimenting with his art. In 1939 he saw an exhibition of the work of Pablo Picasso. This encouraged him to try new ideas.

Pollock was often very unhappy and he used his art to express his feelings. This is why many of his paintings use dark, gloomy colours. As his style became more abstract, Pollock invented a technique called 'drip painting', where he would use many different tools to drip, pour and splatter paint onto the canvas. These paintings were very different to other works of the time and they became very famous and popular.

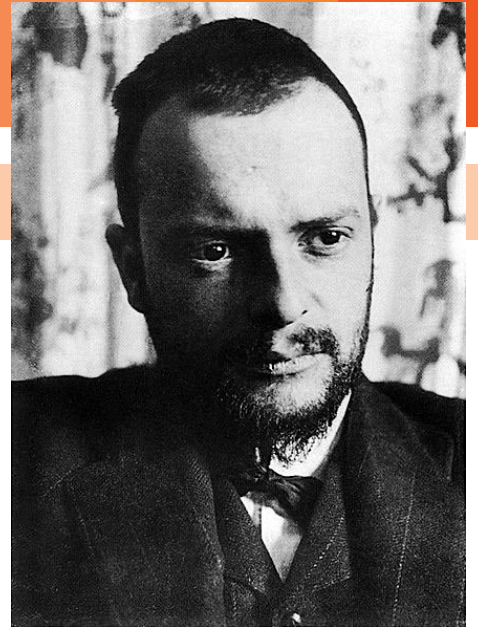
Pollock didn't paint on an easel like most painters, he put his canvases on the floor. He said it made him feel closer to the painting, and it let him work from all four sides. Pollock painted on huge canvases that would dominate the space they were displayed in. Like Mark Rothko, Pollock wanted people to feel like they were part of his paintings.

Pollock's work is still very famous and he is considered to be one of the greatest modern artists. In 2006 his work No. 5 (1948) sold for 140 million dollars, making it the second most expensive piece of art ever sold.

Paul Klee

1879 - 1940

Paul Klee was born in Switzerland in 1879. His father was a music teacher and his mother was a singer. As a child, Paul Klee was a very talented violin player and his parents wanted him to be a musician. However, he felt that classical music was too old fashioned for him to express his feelings. When he was 17, Klee enrolled into the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. His parents were disappointed.



Paul Klee studied hard and got a Degree in Fine Arts. He travelled in Italy to see the famous paintings of the Renaissance. All the time, he was worried that he wasn't good enough at painting because he couldn't make his pictures look realistic. He experimented with lots of different kinds of art work, such as etchings and drawing on glass.

As a young man Klee worked mainly as a graphic designer and illustrator. He became close friends with the rising artist Wassily Kandinsky who encouraged him to experiment with new painting styles. When Klee visited Tunisia in North Africa in 1914, he was inspired by the landscape and the simple shapes and patterns of African art. Finally he felt free to paint in a way that allowed him to express himself clearly.

Klee spent five years as a soldier in WWI. Throughout this time, he continued to practice his painting and develop his new style. After the war, his new works became very popular and he became very busy creating and exhibiting his art. He also taught at the famous German art school, the Bauhaus.

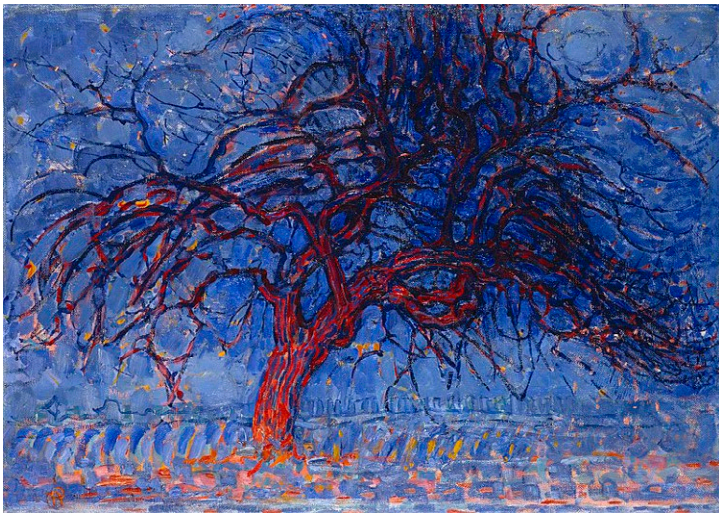
Over his life Klee created over 10 000 works of art using many different materials. In 1939 he created over 1 200 works. This is more than 3 per day! He died in 1940, one of the most famous painters of his day.

Piet Mondrian

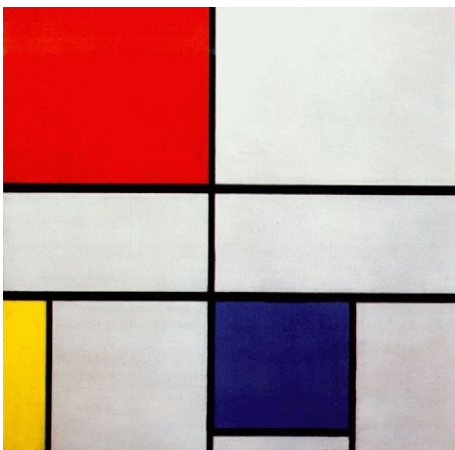
1872 - 1944

Piet Mondrian was born in Amersfoort in the Netherlands, in 1872. His father and uncle were both artists so he was introduced to art at a very young age.

In 1892, Piet began working as a teacher at the Amsterdam Academy of Fine Art. He practised painting in his spare time. His first works were landscape paintings of the Dutch countryside. These paintings were 'representational', which means it is easy to see what the painting is about.



Over time Mondrian began painting in a style known as 'cubism'. In cubism artists represent their subject through combinations of geometric shapes. This allows them to show lots of different viewpoints at the same time. But Mondrian wanted his paintings to be even more abstract. Abstract art doesn't show pictures of things but uses colours, lines and shapes to express how the artist is feeling.



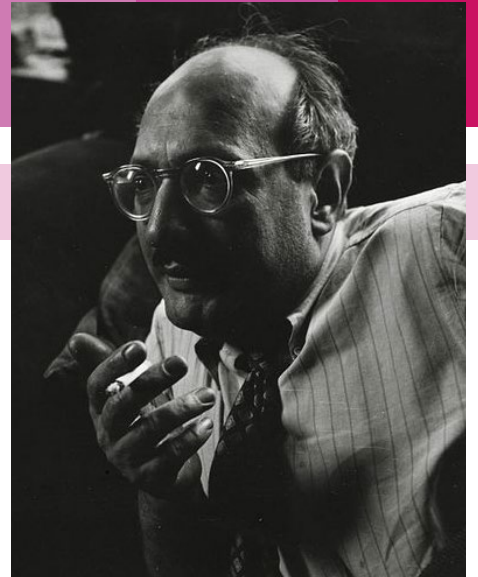
Eventually Mondrian developed a style all of his own. He called it 'neo-plasticism'. He got rid of everything that he thought was not 'essential' and limited his work to what he termed 'the basic forms of beauty'. He painted using simple lines and rectangles in white, black, and the primary colours. Mondrian made many paintings in this style.

Piet Mondrian died of pneumonia in New York City in 1944. His distinctive style has continued to grow in fame since his death.

Mark Rothko

1903 - 1970

Mark Rothko was born in Russia in 1903. He and his family moved to Oregon when he was 10 years old. His father died shortly after he moved to America and young Rothko had to work very hard to help support his family. Rothko did well in school and earned a scholarship to Yale University but he left after two years.



Rothko moved to New York to study Design. He made friends with many young people who wanted to be artists and they spent a lot of time thinking of new ways to express themselves. At first, Rothko did not make a lot of money as an artist and he had to work as a teacher of painting and sculpture to earn a living.

Like most abstract artists, Rothko began with 'representational' paintings that clearly showed landscapes and people. Later, he became interested in mythology and experimented with using creatures from myths as the subjects for his paintings. Eventually, he started to believe that simple shapes and bold colours were the best way to express big emotions.

By 1949 Rothko had developed his 'signature style', with several rectangles of colour on a different coloured background. Rothko chose his colours very carefully to create different feelings. He painted on huge canvases and suggested that people stand very close to them. Rothko wanted people to feel like they were inside his paintings. This kind of art, made up of big blocks of colour, became known as 'Colour Field'.

By the time of his death in 1970 Rothko was one of the most famous and successful artists in the world.

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