

Lessons and Activities

Representation Levels

You can't describe all images in the same way. The **elements** that configure an image can be understood directly or not, everything depends on its ***iconicity level***.

1. Figurative pictures.

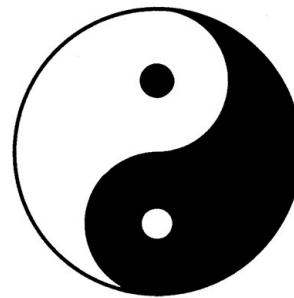
They have a **HIGH *iconicity level***. We can recognize the elements of the picture very easily because they are mimetic representations of reality. They are a copy of it.



Gas (1940) Edward Hopper

2. Symbolic pictures.

They have a **LOW *iconicity level***, so there is not a lot of information in it. The elements are simpler and fewer.



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3. Abstract pictures

Their *iconicity level* is **ZERO**. We can recognize no element as a direct copy of reality.



Orange (1923) *Vasily Kandinsky*

Abstract pictures, although they don't represent elements of reality, always talk about reality as a *personal interpretation* (meaning of reality) of objects, places, feelings or concepts of human beings.

Just take a look how the painter **Piet Mondrian** makes an *abstraction process* of reality through the representation of a tree.

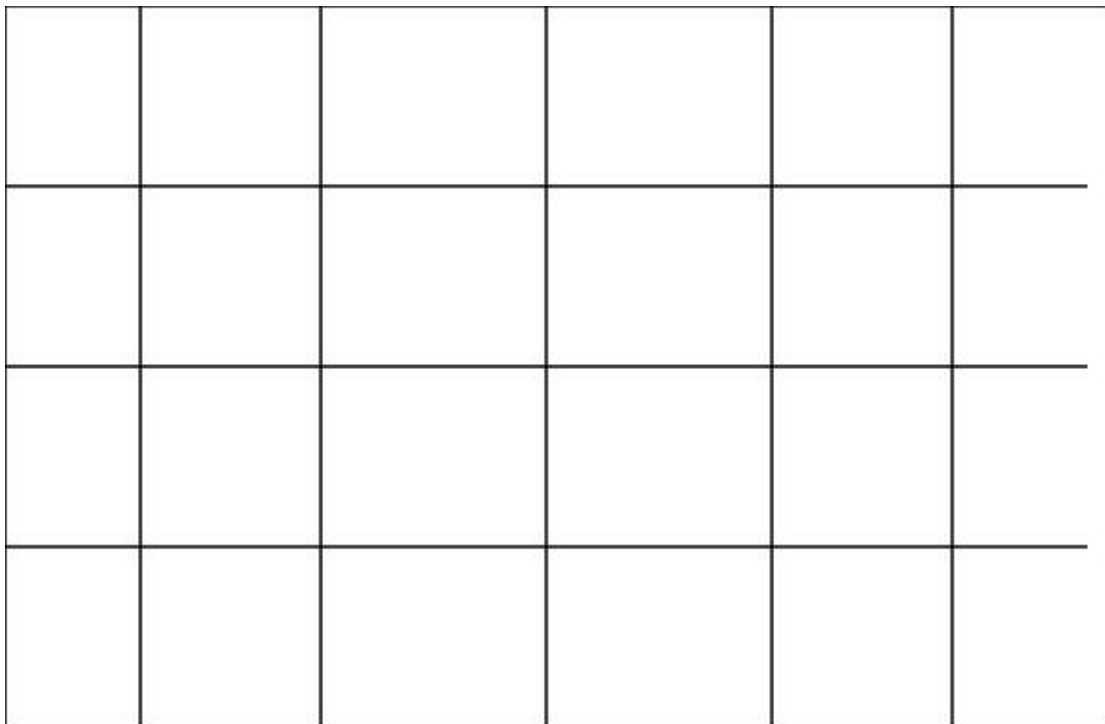


In the same way, the musician **Antonio Lucio Vivaldi** composed a masterpiece called Four Seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter).

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Let's practice!

1. Copy the following picture into the square below. The **grid** will help you.



Let's practice!

2. Take a look at the following pictures:



All of them are made by **Wassily Kandinsky**, a precursor Russian painter of abstract painting.

3. Thinking in these images, just make the following in a DIN-A4:

- a) Paint a background with several shades making no specific shapes.
- b) Then, you have to **cut out** some curved shapes and polygon shapes with pieces of paper of different colours before you stick them over the background trying to make an **embossed picture**.

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4. Take a look at the following pictures:



All of them are symbolic pictures that represent objects or ideas through simple shapes and few colors. They are pictures easy to remember or to copy and we can also duplicate them in a different size with no detail loss.

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Let's practice!

5. You have to draw a different symbol for each picture. You have to use the grid to do your best.

