Mondrian-Style Grids
Lesson Plan

Age Range:
Pre-K up to high school (depending on complexity of discussion and standards of project).

Objectives:

- Be able to identify the elements of art.
- Understand Piet Mondrian’s contributions to the art world via abstract art.
  - Be able to state that Mondrian was a modern abstract painter who used very simple shapes, colors and lines in his work.
- Use line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space in an art piece styled after Piet Mondrian

Duration:
At least two sittings (to allow things to dry), approximately 4 hours total for a 12x16 inch canvas, but this time could be cut in half by using a smaller canvas and/or limiting the number of lines drawn.

Supplies:

- Examples of Composition II in Red, Blue, and Yellow and/or Composition with Yellow, Blue, and Red
- Acrylic (or tempera) paint (red, yellow, blue, white and black)
- Paint supplies (brushes, water cups, mixing plates, canvas, etc)
- Black yarn
- Glue
- Long rulers

Intro:
Display the examples of Mondrian's work. If the elements of art are already known, discuss which ones are being used.
Q. What kind of colors are used? A. Only primary colors, plus black and white
Q. What kind of lines are used? A. Only straight lines, vertical and perpendicular.
Q. What kind of shapes are used? A. Only squares and rectangles.
Q. What kind of textures are used? A. Only smooth.
Q. What kind of space do we see? Do some shapes appear up close and others in the distance? A. No. It's very flat. There isn't much depth.
Q. How is value used? A. It's very basic. Black and white, but no shading.
Q. Is form used? A. No. It is not three dimensional.
If the elements of art are not known, introduce them here.

Activity:

1. Use long rulers and pencils to draw a grid on a canvas, creating squares and rectangles.
2. Paint the squares carefully with primary colors, white and black paint.
3. Allow to dry.
4. Glue strips of black yarn on grid lines.

For younger students or children with disabilities, try any combination of the following:

- Reduce the number of lines
- Use colored pencil instead of paint
- Teacher draws grid lines with a black marker and has the student attempt to color/paint within the lines
- Teacher draws guide lines and has the student attempt to glue the yarn in the correct fashion