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91484A



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Art History 2023

91484 Examine the relationship(s) between art and context

Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine the relationship(s) between art and context.	Examine, in depth, the relationship(s) between art and context.	Examine, perceptively, the relationship(s) between art and context.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Write your answers in this booklet.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (☒). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Achievement

TOTAL 03

PLANNING

Question number: A 3

Art work (1): Small Pleasures (1913)

Art work (2): Evolution (1911)

You should aim to write a concise response of no more than 5–6 pages in length. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your answer.

The painting 'Small Pleasures' by Wassily Kandinsky features symbols and ciphers, along with abstracted forms and black outlines. Theosophy was a movement ~~intended to~~ ^{that began} ~~created~~ with the intent to create a universal language, as Theosophy was a combination of many religions including Buddhism. In 'Small Pleasures', Kandinsky shows the apocalypse through the deluge. The Theosophist belief was that a great catastrophe was needed to achieve spiritual renewal.

On the upper right of the painting, a black area can be seen, this was to represent a black ~~sun~~ sun ~~sky~~ which ~~meant~~ ~~meant~~ that symbolised an upcoming tragedy, which is the deluge, this is connected to the red moon on the upper left as well, both foreshadowing the arrival of something dark, ~~Kandinsky also showed waves~~ Waves can also be seen on the lower center and right side of the painting, this represented the deluge, the big flood as depicted from the Bible.

~~Kandinsky was able to develop his own iconography.~~
As an Expressionist, Kandinsky was used ~~the~~ loose brushwork and simplified, abstracted forms in his paintings. He was even credited as the 'Father of Abstraction'.

Theosophy was the reason for his development of abstraction in his works, he was able to develop his own color iconography which he used here, the black sun and its symbol. Although he never claimed to be a Theosophist and only practiced their beliefs. Kandinsky was a part of the group 'Blue Rider' and their main objective was to show or invoke some spirituality through art.

~~Theosophy was founded by Helena Blavatsky but~~
The other artwork that uses theoretical context ~~is~~
is 'Evolution' by Piet Mondrian. This was a triptych, a group of paintings that are connected, where he shows the process of evolution as Theosophists believed in spiritual enlightenment through evolution.

In the paintings, many symbolism can be found through his use of ~~shapes~~ shapes as geometry was believed by Theosophists to be connected with everything, the nature of all things. In the middle painting, behind the figure, which Mondrian ~~usually~~ rarely uses in his artworks because of his strict Calvinist upbringing, there are two white triangles pointing upwards, this symbolises the ~~fire~~ fire element in Theosophy, the ~~masculine~~ masculine elements, love, truth and wisdom. On the left painting, two black triangles can be seen pointing down, this represents consciousness and particles, our material form.

And finally, the ~~last~~ painting on the furthest right shows a star with six pointed sides,

, this represents the balance and opposites.

Piet Mondrian ~~became~~ began as a Dutch naturalist, ~~he began~~ he became interested in ~~Steiner~~ Theosophy because of Steiner, similar to Kandinsky ~~more~~. Although the movement was ~~created~~ created by Helena Blavatsky, it was ~~only pop~~ further popularized through Rudolph Steiner. Mondrian attended Steiner's lecture in Amsterdam in 1908 while Kandinsky ~~was~~ met Steiner after moving to Berlin.

Both Mondrian and Kandinsky ~~applied~~ applied Theosophical beliefs in their works, Kandinsky wanted to show the apocalypse through his art in hopes of enlightening the viewers about it while Mondrian ~~wanted~~ wanted to show the process of Evolution ~~in~~. Both executed using symbols and colors, an important feature in Theosophy. Theosophy became the main reason for the development of their art. Theosophy gave way for Kandinsky to create abstract art, as before 'Small Pleasures' was created, he had a similar glass painting but it was still containing forms and it wasn't as colorful. Later on Kandinsky ~~influenced~~ and Mondrian influenced artists like Jackson Pollock who developed the pouring paint technique, which pushed the abstraction movement. ~~and~~

Achievement

Subject: Art History

Standard: 91484

Total score: 03

Grade score	Marker commentary
A3	While the candidate initially addresses the question somewhat obliquely, they do explain the context for Mondrian, and because the context is the same for both art works aspects of this explanation are applicable across the selection of art works.