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Modern art, modern love
Wassily Kandinsky and Gabriele Münter
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Lecture summary

Kandinsky and Münter forged their partnership as part of a vibrant, young international artistic circle in Munich at the turn of the twentieth century. As founding members of two avant-garde artists' groups, the *Neuer Künstlervereinigung München* (NKVM) and The Blue Rider (*Der Blaue Reiter*), they sought to create expressive, emotive works that challenged the conventions of painting and spoke to the public on a deeper, spiritual level. During this time, Kandinsky edged closer to a wholly abstract art, as both artists grew bolder in their use of colour and line and drew inspiration from their mutual interests in folk art—Münter's experiments with Bavarian glass painting (*hinterglasmalerei*), and Kandinsky's collection of Russian prints and icons. While their relationship was artistically productive, it was nevertheless marked by personal tensions, even before the outbreak of war brought an end to their tumultuous time together.

List of works (in order of presentation)

1. Wassily Kandinsky, *Riding Couple* (detail), 1906, oil on canvas, 55.0 × 50.5 cm.
2. Henri Matisse, *Portrait of Greta Moll*, 1908, oil on canvas, 93 × 73.5 cm.
3. Wassily Kandinsky, *Munich*, 1901, oil on canvas, 24 x 32 cm.
4. Wassily Kandinsky, *The First Phalanx Exhibition Poster*, 1901, lithograph on paper, 46 x 59 cm.
5. Gabriele Münter, *Kandinsky, Writing in Landscape*, 1903, oil on canvas, 17 x 25 cm.
6. Wassily Kandinsky, *Kallmunz—Gabriele Münter Painting I*, 1903, oil on canvas, 58.5 x 58.5 cm.
7. Gabriele Münter, *Landscape near Rapallo*, c. 1906, oil on canvas, 20 x 34 cm; Wassily Kandinsky, *Bay of Rapallo*, 1906, oil on card, 24 x 31 cm.
8. Paul Gauguin, *Mahana no atua* (Day of the God), 1894, oil on canvas, 68 cm x 92 cm; Henri Matisse, *Luxe, Calme, Volupté*, 1904, oil on canvas, 98.5 cm × 118.5 cm.
9. Gabriele Münter, *Park St Cloud*, 1907, two handprinted colour linocuts on Japan paper, 10 x 24 cm; *Avenue in the Park St Cloud*, 1906, oil on canvas, 40.5 x 50.5 cm
10. Wassily Kandinsky, *Colourful Life*, 1906, oil on canvas, 145 x 160 cm
11. Wassily Kandinsky, *Study for Landscape with Tower*, 1908, oil on canvas, 33 x 45 cm; Gabriele Münter, *Landscape with White Wall*, 1910, oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm.
12. Wassily Kandinsky, *Blue Mountain*, 1908-9, oil on canvas, 107 x 98 cm.
13. Gabriele Münter, *Towards Evening*, 1909, oil on cardboard, 48 x 70 cm; *Sunset over Staffelsee*, c. 1908, oil on cardboard, 33 x 40 cm.
14. Gabriele Münter, *Master Brewer Schöttl from Angerbräu Murnau*, c.1910, reverse glass painting, 18.5 x 13 cm; *Bavarian Landscape with Farmstead*, reverse glass painting, 14 x 21 cm.
15. Wassily Kandinsky, *Lion Hunt*, 1911, reverse glass painting, 9.5 x 13.5 cm; *All Saints I*, 1911, reverse glass painting, 34.5 x 40.5 cm
16. Gabriele Münter, *Interior*, 1909, oil on cardboard, 53 x 71 cm.
17. Marianne Werefkin, *Self-Portrait in Sailor Blouse*, 1909, oil on canvas, 69 x 51 cm
18. Gabriele Münter, *Portrait of Marianne Werefkin*, 1909, oil on cardboard, 81 x 55 cm.
19. Alexei Jawlensky, *Self-Portrait*, 1912, oil on cardboard, 53 x 48 cm.
20. Marianne Werefkin, *Self-Portrait I*, 1909, tempera on paper, 51 x 34 cm.
21. Gabriele Münter, *In the Meadow: Jawlensky and Werefkin*, 1909, oil on cardboard, 32 x 44 cm.
22. Gabriele Münter, *Listening (Portrait of Jawlensky)*, 1909, oil on cardboard, 50 x 66 cm.
23. Wassily Kandinsky, *Neue Künstlervereinigung München Exhibition Poster*, 1909, lithograph, 27 x 22 cm.

24. Wassily Kandinsky, *NKVM Membership Card*, 1909, woodcut, 16 x 16.5 cm; *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, 1912, Munich: Piper, first edition (1000 copies)
25. Wassily Kandinsky, *Sketch for Composition II*, 1909–1910, oil on canvas, 97.5 x 131 cm.
26. Wassily Kandinsky, *Composition V*, 1911, oil on canvas, 190 x 275 cm
27. Wassily Kandinsky, *Resurrection (the Last Judgment)*, 1910, reverse glass painting, 22 x 11.5 cm; *The Last Judgment*, 1910, oil on canvas, 50 x 30 cm
28. *The Blue Rider Almanac*, 1911, edited by Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc, Munich: Piper, first edition (1200 copies); special deluxe edition of 50 bound in leather with two woodcuts.
29. Franz Marc, *Blue Horses*, 1911, oil on canvas, 105 x 181 cm; Wassily Kandinsky, *The Blue Rider*, 1903, oil on card, 55 x 60 cm.
30. Wassily Kandinsky, *Saint George and the Dragon*, 1910, reverse glass painting, 19 x 20 cm; *Saint George II*, 1903, oil on card, 107 x 95 cm; *Saint George II*, 1911, reverse glass painting, 30 x 15 cm.
31. Gabriele Münter, *Apples and Daffodils*, 1909, oil on board, 67 x 50 cm; *Still Life, Red*, 1909, oil on board, 53 x 40 cm; *Fruit and Flowers*, 1909, oil on board, 32 x 33 cm.
32. Gabriele Münter, *Still Life with Saint George*, 1911, oil on canvas, 51 x 68 cm; *Saint George and the Dragon*, c. 1910, reverse glass painting, 39 x 29 cm.
33. Franz Marc, *Yellow Cow*, 1910, oil on canvas; 141 x 190 cm; Gabriele Münter, *Landstraße in Winter*, 1911, oil on canvas, 51 x 75 cm.
34. Wassily Kandinsky, *Improvisation No. 27 (Garden of Love II)*, 1912, oil on canvas, 120 x 140 cm.
35. Wassily Kandinsky, *Colour Study. Squares with Concentric Circles*, 1913, watercolour, 24 x 31.5 cm.
36. Gabriele Münter, *Still Life with Vase I*, 1914, oil on press board, 61 x 46.5 cm.
37. Wassily Kandinsky, *Improvisation No. 30 (Cannons)*, 1913, oil on canvas, 111 x 111 cm
38. Wassily Kandinsky, *Improvisation (Gorge)*, 1914, oil on canvas, 110 x 110 cm.
39. Wassily Kandinsky, *Moscow I*, 1916, oil on canvas, 49.5 x 51.5 cm.
40. Gabriele Münter, *May Evening in Stockholm*, 1916, oil on canvas, 60 x 45 cm, *In Stockholm*, 1916, oil on canvas, 60 x 45 cm; *Christmas Still Life*, 1916, oil on cardboard, 49.5 x 65 cm.
41. Gabriele Münter, *Meditation*, 1917, oil on canvas, 66 x 99.5 cm; *Future*, 1917, oil on canvas, 97.5 x 64 cm.
42. Gabriele Münter, *The Letter (Sick)*, 1917, oil on canvas, 95 x 140 cm.
43. Gabriele Münter, *Kandinsky at the Tea Table*, 1910, oil on canvas, 68 x 47 cm; *Kandinsky and Erma Bossi at the Table*, 1912, oil on canvas, 95.5 cm x 125.5 cm
44. Wassily Kandinsky, *The Boat Trip*, 1910, oil on canvas, 98 x 105 cm; Gabriele Münter, *Boating*, 1910, oil on canvas, 125 x 74 cm.

References

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