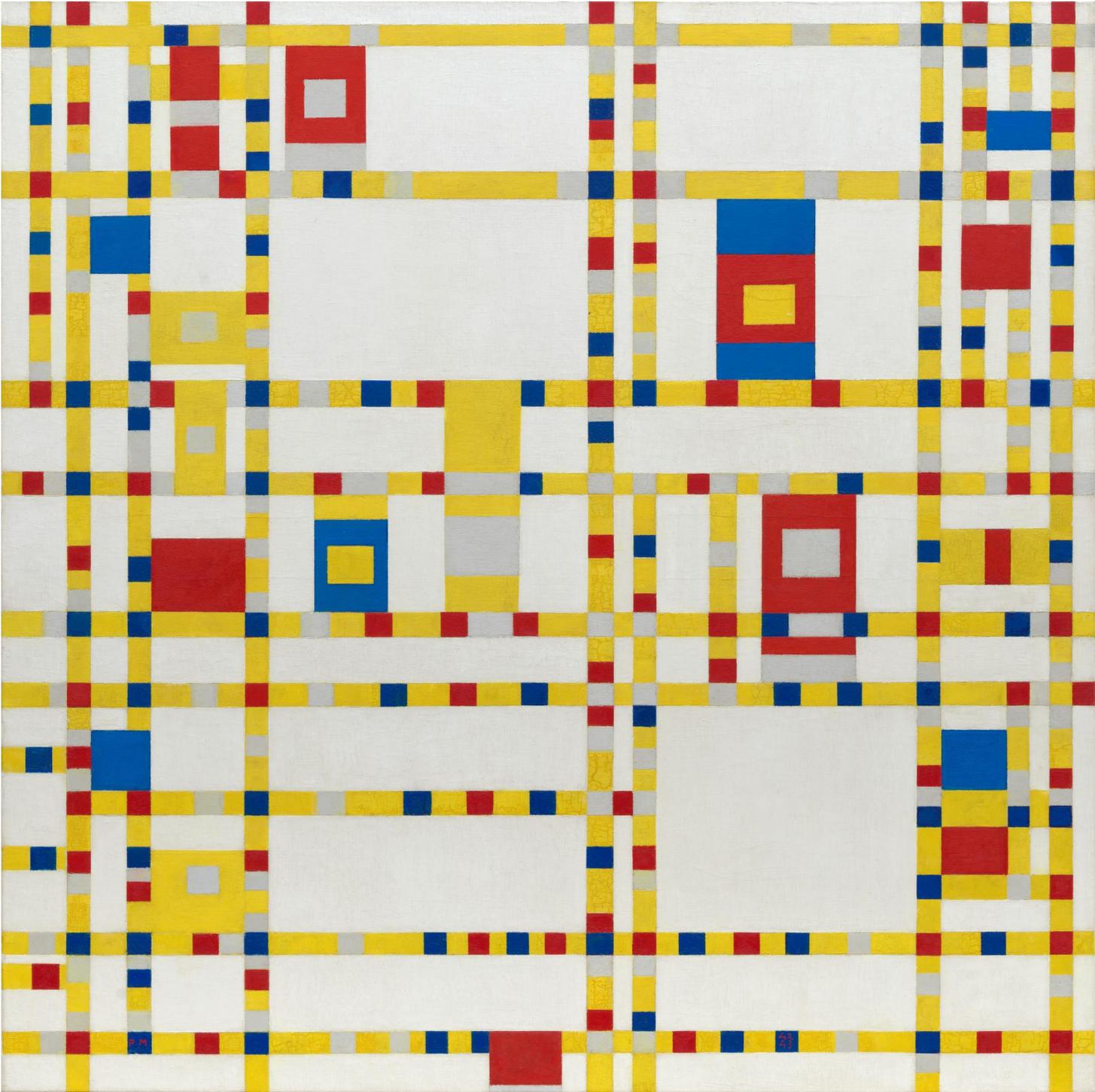


Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What shapes and colors did the artist use to make this artwork?
2. How are these shapes and colors arranged?
3. What words would you use to describe the composition?
4. What does this image remind you of?

Step 2 Learn more

The artist, Piet Mondrian, titled this painting *Broadway Boogie Woogie*. When he arrived in New York City in the 1940s, he was immediately fascinated and drawn to the city and the energy of the jazz music he heard. He began, as he said, to “put a little boogie-woogie” into his paintings by using bright colors that repeat throughout the painting. The painting is made up of horizontal and vertical lines that are composed of blue, red, yellow, and light gray squares and rectangles which are set within a white background. Bouncing against each other, these tiny blocks of color create a vital and pulsing rhythm, an optical vibration that jumps from intersection to intersection like traffic on the streets of New York. Lines travel through the canvas like intersecting streets of midtown Manhattan, almost like an aerial or a bird's-eye view of the city.

Watch and listen to pianist and composer Jason Moran react to this painting:
youtu.be/O5KLW-xsoxE



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Step 3 Represent a place with lines, shapes, and colors

Materials: white sheet of paper for the background, construction or colored paper, scissors, and adhesive like tape or glue.

1. Think of a place that is important to you that contains streets, buildings, and interesting sounds. Imagine looking at this place from a bird's-eye view (you can also use a device or a website to see a map view of the area).
2. Choose one color to cut into strips and arrange on a sheet of paper to create roads or streets. When you are satisfied with the layout, affix the strips using tape or glue.
3. Imagine yourself strolling through the streets you created. What sounds might you hear?
4. Assign other colors to represent buildings, cars, or sounds and cut them into squares and rectangles. Arrange the shapes where you would see and hear them along your streets.
5. Take a photograph of your composition and share it with a friend, or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org

Image: Piet Mondrian. *Broadway Boogie Woogie*. 1942–43. Oil on canvas. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Given anonymously.