

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1995

MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES KANDINSKY: COMPOSITIONS

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a major catalogue to accompany the exhibition **KANDINSKY: COMPOSITIONS**, on view at the Museum from January 26 through April 25, 1995. With an extended essay by Magdalena Dabrowski, Senior Curator, Department of Drawings, and organizer of the exhibition, the publication presents the first study of Kandinsky's most powerful and important works as a series. These richly colored, monumental canvases, executed between 1910 and 1939, trace Vasily Kandinsky's evolution from a figurative painter to one of the central figures in twentieth-century abstract art. The book reproduces together, for the first time, all ten of the *Compositions* -- even those first three destroyed during World War II -- along with their related studies.

In her essay, Ms. Dabrowski reveals how the formal principles and iconographical imagery of these rich and powerful images were of near-religious significance to Kandinsky. The author presents evidence from the artist's extensive writings and summarizes issues from previous scholarship on the artist. Her penetrating and original analysis of the influences and meaning of this series touches on such issues as how Kandinsky's study of new structures in early twentieth-century symphonic music helped him to formulate and develop his *Compositions*.

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Published by The Museum of Modern Art, *Kandinsky: Compositions* contains 128 pages and 102 illustrations (39 in color). The hardbound edition (\$39.95), distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and the paperbound edition (\$22.50) are available at The MoMA Book Store.

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