Piet Mondrian, “Composition II in Red, Blue, Yellow” (1930).

“Nature or, that which I see, inspires me, puts me, as with any painter, in an emotional state so that an urge comes about to make something, but I want to come as close as possible to the truth and abstract everything from that, until I reach the foundation, still just an external foundation, of things.”

Piet Mondrian was born March 7, 1872 in Netherlands. Mondrian was introduced to art from a very early age: his father was a qualified drawing teacher, and with his uncle, Fritz Mondriaan, the younger Piet often painted and drew along the river Gein. He began his career as a teacher in primary education, but while teaching he also practiced painting. At first, his work consisted mostly of landscapes. Later on, he was influenced by cubism. And finally he began to produce grid-based paintings, the style for which he came to be renowned began to appear. During his life, he moved from Netherlands to Paris, to London and finally to New York. Piet Mondrian died of pneumonia in 1944.

The “Composition II in Red, Blue, Yellow” consists of white ground upon which is painted a grid of vertical and horizontal black lines and the three primary colors. This picture belongs to the neoplasticism style created by Piet Mondrian. It is one of the “lozenge” pictures that he created in the mid 1920s. When exhibited, the picture hangs tilted 45 degrees, so it has a diamond shape.

Paint the red part of the image, then paint the white part on the side, then paint the blue part, then the white part on the bottom and finally the bottom right corner. To paint the red part move the painter forward 2 times, then right 4 times and paint a red rectangle of a big size (7 by 7). Return to the original size, move the painter left 4 steps and paint another big rectangle. Return to the original size. The red part is now done. Move the painter left 6 times and up 3 times and paint a white rectangle with black rim sized 5 by 7. Back to the original size. Move the painter down 5 times and paint another white rectangle with black rim sized 5 by 3. Return to the original size. Move the painter down 3 times and paint a blue rectangle with black rim sized 5 by 3. Back to the original size. To paint the bottom white part, move right 6 times, draw a white rectangle with black rim sized 3 by 7. Back to the original size. To paint the final part, move the painter 6 steps to the right and paint a white rectangle with black rim sized 3 by 5. Resize the painter back to the original size. Make the painter twice smaller than the original, move it down two steps and paint a yellow rectangle with black rim sized 3 by 5. The composition is ready.