Make a Mondrian-style Santa

Turn Father Christmas into modern art.

Hello my name's Olaf Falafel. I'm an author, an illustrator and a stand-up comedian. My latest book is called *A Poo on a Pogo Stick* and it's a joke book. I love to show people how to create art – sometimes based on the works of famous artists or illustrators. I also like to tell a joke – like this one from my book: Which of Santa's reindeer was always picking its nose and burping? Rude-dolph.

For this week's festive activity I'm going to show you how to create Santa Claus in the style of the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian. Mondrian was born in 1872 in the Netherlands and he started out painting real things like trees, windmills and landscapes. As he grew older, he became interested in making art more simple and modern, so he began using straight black lines and bright colours like red, blue and yellow to create his famous style.
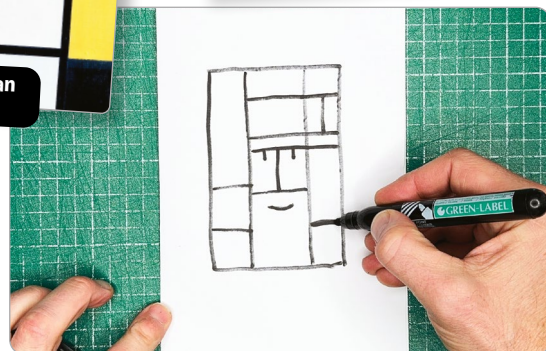
Mondrian's paintings aren't meant to show specific things but I thought it would be fun to use his grid-like style to create an abstract Santa. Abstract art is when artists use shapes, colours and lines instead of trying to make a picture look like a real thing. To make the straight black lines bold and easier to achieve, I'm going to use electrical tape, which you can find in most DIY shops.

A Mondrian artwork.

What you need

- A small sheet of paper or sketchbook
- Black pen
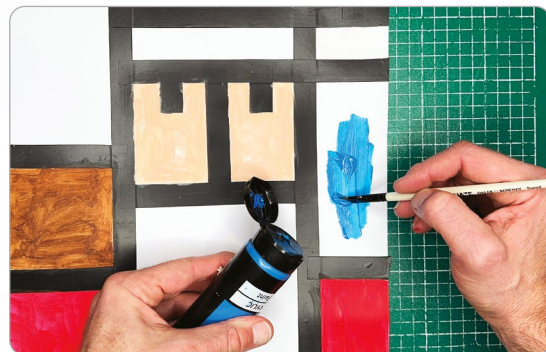- A large sheet of paper
- Scissors
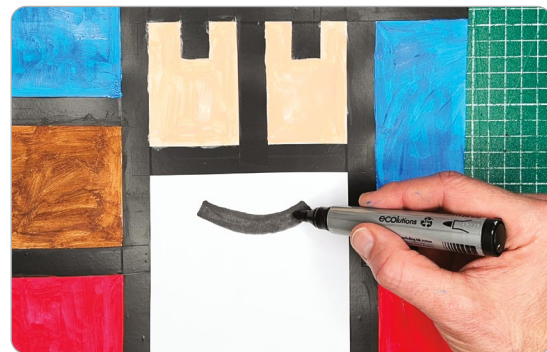- Black electrical tape
- Paints

1 On a small piece of paper, plan out your abstract Santa. It works best if the face is in the middle.

2 Recreate the plan on your big sheet of paper. Cut lengths of tape and stick them over the lines.

3 Paint the shapes in red, brown and blue for Santa's suit, sack of presents, his face and the sky.

4 The white blocks are for Santa's beard and hair. Give him a jolly smile using your black pen.

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SCAN ME