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Wassily Kandinsky: Picture "Heavy Red" (1924), framed

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The first steps towards abstraction were taken by Wassily Kandinsky around 1908, when splashes of colour appeared in his landscape paintings, drawing attention to isolated individual aspects of the subject. Soon nature is merely part of his works. A watercolour dated by Kandinsky as 1910 (but possibly not painted until 1913) is finally regarded as his first non-representational work.

His works became "compositions" in which the synaesthete searched for "colour sounds" and formal connections. From then on, Kandinsky tried to systematically fathom the interplay of geometric forms and calculated colour relationships. "Heavy Red" dates from this period when Kandinsky was teaching at the Bauhaus.

Original: 1924, oil on cardboard, 48.7 x 33.8, Kunstmuseum Basel.

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