

Eiichi Tosaki

# Mondrian's Philosophy of Visual Rhythm

Phenomenology, Wittgenstein, and Eastern thought

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Mondrian's Theoretical Beginnings and Spiritual Background of Neoplastic Rhythm .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Motivation: Mondrian's Writings on Rhythm .....	1
1.2	Characteristics of Mondrian's Ideas of Rhythm.....	4
1.3	Direct and Indirect Influences .....	6
1.4	Neo-plasticism and Nature .....	10
1.5	Hegel's Influence on Mondrian's Theory of Rhythm.....	11
1.6	Theosophical Influence on Mondrian's Theory of Rhythm .....	13
1.7	Becoming: Theosophy and Hegel .....	21
1.8	Departure from Theosophy .....	26
1.9	Against the Fourth Dimension: Van Doesburg and His Peers.....	28
1.10	Mondrian and the East: Taoist Thought .....	34
	References .....	38
<b>2</b>	<b>Rhythm in Mondrian's Early Theory of Painting .....</b>	<b>41</b>
2.1	Interpretation of Mondrian's Rhythm.....	41
2.2	A Rudimentary Theory of Rhythm: 1917–19 and After .....	43
2.3	The Concept of 'Rest' in Neo-plasticism .....	50
2.4	Rhythm as the 'Subjective' Entity.....	53
2.5	New Understanding of Rhythm 1919: Rhythm Versus Harmony .....	56
2.6	New Harmony?.....	60
2.7	Theory of Rhythm in Later Neo-plasticism After 1927 .....	63
2.8	Theory of Rhythm in "The New Art – The New Life: The Culture of Pure Relationships" (1931).....	65
2.9	After 1932: The Introduction of Double-Lines .....	66
2.10	Dynamic Equilibrium: 1934 .....	69
2.11	New York Paintings: Boogie Woogie and the Expression of 'Form' .....	70
2.12	The Problem of the New York Paintings .....	72
	References .....	75

<b>3 Dynamic Rhythm and Static Rhythm: Polemics of Mondrian's Theory of Rhythm .....</b>	77
3.1 Neoplastic and Constructivist Static Rhythm.....	77
3.2 Two Types of Visual Rhythm: Stroboscopic and Static .....	79
3.3 Futurist and Constructivist Rhythm .....	81
3.4 Mondrian Is a Painter of Thickness?.....	89
3.5 Appreciation of Rhythm in Neoplastic Canvas .....	92
3.6 Transcendental Black Lines: 'Speed' .....	97
References .....	102
<b>4 Mondrian's Rhythm and Contemporary Music (His Music Peers) .....</b>	105
4.1 Is Mondrian's Visual Rhythm a Different Rhythm?.....	105
4.2 Rhythm Without Metre?.....	107
4.3 Mondrian and Contemporary Music Theory .....	110
4.4 Mondrian's Music Peer: van Domselaer .....	112
4.5 Proeven van Stijlkunst: Experiments in Style, 1916 .....	115
4.6 Musicological Understanding of van Domselaer's 'Proeven van Stijlkunst' .....	118
4.7 Russolo and Bruiteurs Futuristes Italiens.....	125
4.8 Neoplastic Theory of Music: Silence, Rest, Break .....	128
4.9 Composition: Noise and Silence Versus Brushwork and Flatness .....	131
4.10 Mondrian and Dance .....	135
4.11 Melody Versus Rhythm: Kandinsky and Mondrian 1 .....	137
References .....	140
<b>5 Concepts of Rhythm in Music, Philosophy and Painting.....</b>	143
5.1 Rhythm as Structure .....	143
5.2 Philological Understanding of Rhythm and Schema .....	144
5.3 What Is Rhythm in Aristoxenus' Theory of Poetry?.....	147
5.4 The Birth of Metre: The Development of the Aristoxenusian Theory of Rhythm and Metre .....	150
5.5 Application of the Theory of Rhythm to the Visual Field: Rhythm ( $\rho\theta\mu\omega\zeta$ ) and Schema ( $\sigma\chi\eta\mu\alpha$ ).....	153
5.6 General Understandings of Musical Rhythm in Modern Times.....	156
5.7 The Sense of Rhythm Sensed .....	158
5.8 S. K. Langer's Theory of Rhythm .....	160
5.9 Rhythm and Composition.....	163
5.10 Visual Rhythm as A Function of Grouping.....	167
5.11 Visual Rhythm and Time .....	169
5.12 Metre and Rhythm.....	171
5.13 Repetition and Metre, or Matrix and Metre .....	173
References .....	176

<b>6 Appreciation of Visual Rhythm: Husserl's 'Image-Object' and Wittgenstein's 'Seeing-as'</b> .....	179
6.1 Visual Rhythm: Composition and Schema.....	179
6.2 Image: Painting-Game.....	180
6.3 Husserl's Image-Object .....	183
6.4 Mirror of Reality: Image-Object and Non-referential Painting.....	188
6.5 Hapticity and Reproduction.....	195
6.6 Against Iconic Reading: Mondrian and Kandinsky2 .....	197
6.7 Phenomenology of Visual Rhythm in the Neoplastic Canvas .....	200
6.8 Wittgenstein's 'Seeing-as' .....	202
6.9 Wollheim's 'Seeing-in' and Wittgenstein's 'Seeing-as' .....	204
6.10 Between Things in Presence (Surface) and Pictorial Space.....	206
References .....	209
<b>7 Cognitive Approach to Reading Visual Rhythm: Wittgenstein's 'Aspect-Dawning': Painting Surface and Rhythm .....</b>	211
7.1 'Rough Ground' and Surface: From Wittgenstein's Point of View .....	212
7.2 A Small Class of Cases .....	219
7.3 Surface and "Seeing-as" .....	222
7.4 Searching for the New Aspect .....	231
7.5 Beyond "Aspect-Blindness" .....	232
7.6 Static-Dynamic Movement: Aspect and Dimension .....	235
7.7 To Become "Aspect-Sighted" .....	240
7.8 'Stasis' Becomes 'Fast' .....	241
7.9 Against Symmetry: Against Memory .....	244
7.10 Reading 'Rhythm' on Mondrian's Early Mature Neoplastic Canvases .....	247
7.11 Conclusion.....	249
References .....	252
<b>Index.....</b>	255