Student name: Group:

Art movement.....Suprematism, XX, c.
Timeframe.....1913 - 1920
Topic Focus.....Art freed from representation

Teaching material: The instructor will provide video materials for educational purposes. ~15'

Background information:

Suprematism, created by Kazimir Malevich, was one of the earliest and most radical developments in abstract art. Its name reflected Malevich's belief that Suprematist art would lead to the "supremacy of pure feeling or perception in the pictorial arts." Influenced by avant-garde Russian writers and poets, Malevich mocked the "old" rules of written language related to storytelling. Inspired by this new way of thinking, Malevich rejected the idea that art should "copy nature" and envisioned instead the possibility of abstract art reduced to its most fundamental geometric forms. Following the poets and literary critics interested in questioning what constituted verse and prose, Malevich sought to ask the same fundamental questions about art.

Suprematists aimed to reach the point where abstract art could be reduced to its most essential form, which Malevich called the "zero degree" of art. The "zero degree" was represented by his (in)famous paintings Black Square and White on White. His emphasis on reduced geometric forms also forced viewers to consider the texture of the painted surface. This became a defining feature of the Suprematist project.

Discussion questions: (Photograph of 0.10) This image represents an exhibition. How would you describe the arrangement of the works? What strikes you as unique? (10')

Main activity: In the exhibition booklet 0.10: The Last Futurist Exhibition, Malevich stated that "painters must abandon subject and objects if they wish to be pure painters" (as exemplified by Black Square); he believed that art should be free of any reference to the visible world and based solely on pure forms and colours.

Analyse and investigate representative works of the Suprematist movement, such as Kazimir Malevich's *Black Square* and Wassily Kandinsky's *Composition VIII*. Identify the key elements of Suprematist art, such as the use of simple geometric shapes and the emphasis on purity of colour and form.

- Describe the shapes, colours, and composition of the works.
- Research the historical and cultural context in which these works were created.

Group activity: Divide the class into two groups and share the information found.

Relevant texts: *The Non-Objective World: The Manifesto of Suprematism* (1915) by Kazimir Malevich: This is a manifesto written by Malevich describing the importance of abstraction and the supremacy of form in art.

From Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism: The New Realism in Painting (1915) by El Lissitzky: This text provides a detailed description of the evolution of abstract art and the formation of Suprematism.

1. Notes on SUPREMATISM.

3. Key words and key artworks

2. Notes on the ideas that suport Suprematism.

4. Summary of the topic/lesson. Conclusions