

**ABSTRACT PAINTING AS  
A TRANSFORMATION OF THE COSMOLOGY  
CONCEPT<sup>1</sup>  
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*Of all the arts, abstract painting is the most difficult. It demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensitivity for composition and for colours, and that you be a true poet. This last is essential.*

*Wassily Kandinsky*

**Abstract**

Painting in Bali in the last three decades has veered towards abstraction. This abstraction is based on narrative and icons, including symbolic and non-symbolic elements, with the use of colour as a major component. This development is rooted in Balinese Hindu art and traditional culture. Philosophical aspects of the Balinese way of life provide a major source for the Balinese artist's creativity: therefore, even if the painting is very abstract, it is likely to be strongly based in Balinese Hindu culture. Structures of life in Bali are rooted in a hierarchical order. Based on the idea of balance between the macro cosmos and the micro cosmos, Balinese people aim to live life in harmony. The various dimensions of life according to Balinese philosophy often inspire the visual artist.

**Keywords :** Bali, Painting, Abstract, transformation, cosmology.