



*Biker* 1984 Oil on canvas 74" by 69 1/2"

SOURCE: <https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/338>



*Mondrian Dancing* 1985 Oil on canvas 78 1/4" x 91"

SOURCE: <https://www.slam.org/collection/objects/15457/>. (St Louis Art Museum)

In *Biker*, there is so much movement that seems barely in control – we see handlebars with no hands gripping them, and one hand holds onto the hat! We see fast travel through a puddle, a deep wake and flying sprays of water. We see biker and bike tilted to one side, and a shape at the right that might be a tree branch about to sideswipe the whole project. Yet, the painting and its subject are fully committed to the precarious moment. Confident brush strokes, vibrant colours, big contrast, high risk. Love it.

In *Mondrian Dancing*, the Dutch Modernist painter Piet Mondrian dances with a partner through an abstract landscape. Mondrian was big fan of American jazz music and of ballroom dancing. He had a big influence on Rothenberg and this is her homage. I like the asymmetric composition of the off-centre figures. I enjoy the contrast with the charging Biker – the mood is more mellow and there is a gentler swaying quality to the dancers' movements, softer less jagged brushstrokes with more blending. Similar colours are present in both canvases, though in very different proportions. Blue Red Yellow primary colours are strongly associated with Mondrian, and the gestural brushstrokes of the background are also reminiscent of his Abstract Expressionism. The next slide shows some direct comparisons with his work. (Source: <https://www.slam.org/collection/objects/15457/>).