

On Wanting to Kiss Kandinsky's *Heavy Circles* and di Paolo's *Baptism of Christ*

by [Alea Peister](#)

August 19, 2025

*Norton Simon Museum, September 2024*

In Kandinsky's circling cosmos, a stinging yellow burns  
through navy space in perfect traces of a balanced mind.

Through space, these perfect traces of a balanced mind  
reach to strike me with desire in my gut.

I am stricken with desire in my gut  
to take my kiss to something—say, Saint John's perfect cup.

Taking my kiss to Saint John's perfect cup I reach  
but he, pouring liquid on Christ's head, would bid me drink instead.

Saint John pours liquid on Christ's head. He bids me drink  
of the perfect golden circle burning in his hand.

That perfect circle burning in his hand sends  
rings up through the cosmos—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

are ringed with gold throughout the cosmos. Oh—Father, Son, Holy Ghost!  
In Kandinsky's circling cosmos a stinging yellow burns.