

PABLO PICASSO

1881-1973

Introduction, photographs 1889 with sister Lola, c.1970

Pablo Picasso was born in Spain in 1881. He began drawing even before he could talk, and his father, who was an art teacher, encouraged his natural talent. During his life Picasso created over 20,000 works of art and became one of the world's most famous artists. There are several museums dedicated to his work.

Self-Portrait, 1906 & 1907

1906, Picasso was turning toward a new direction in his art. He was 25 and becoming successful. He had seen a very ancient sculpture that was found in Spain. The sculpture influenced this self-portrait. He made the painting look heavy and stone like.

1907, Picasso was fascinated with African art, this portrait is almost mask-like and possibly influenced by African art.

Blue Period, The Old Guitarist, 1903

What is the dominant color? How does it make you feel – blue? Picasso's Blue Period (1901-1904) consists of somber paintings rendered in shades of blue and blue-green, only occasionally warmed by other colors. The blue tone sends a message of cold and sadness; do you think this painting might have a different mood if there were different/warmer colors?

The Rose Period, Family of Saltimbanques, 1905

The Rose Period (1904-1906) is characterized by a more cheery style with orange and pink colors, and often had a circus theme including acrobats and harlequins. This was the last painting of the Rose Period dealing with a circus theme and it was his first big canvas – 7x7ft.

Cubism/Portrait of D.H. Kahn Weiher, 1910

Analytic cubism (1909-1912) is a style of painting Picasso developed along with another artist, Georges Braque (*Brahk*) using monochrome (one color) brown and neutral colors. Both artists took apart objects and "analyzed" them in terms of their shapes. Synthetic cubism (1912-1919) came shortly after where Picasso and Braque used cut paper (often wallpaper, or portions of newspaper pages were the first use of collage in fine art.

In this painting, very little color was used because Picasso wanted to focus on shapes and form. This painting, along with others in this style became almost abstract and the original subject was sometimes unrecognizable. Does this look like a portrait of a man to you?

Still Life, 1918

A still life painting is typically one of inanimate objects - like a bowl of fruit - that the artist arranges and then uses to create a realistic image. Does this look like a typical still life to you? Can you name some of the objects he used in this painting?

Here Picasso started adding color to the geometric forms – color to Cubism. He knew that Analytical Cubism had become precise, cold, and scientific; he was still interested in form and shapes, but he wanted to add warmth and texture by using color, curved lines, and paper.

Three Musicians, 1921

This Cubist painting has many bright, flat colors and geometric shapes; Picasso fit all the shapes together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. He took the musicians apart and put them back together in a new way. The dark background makes the bright colors and crisp white shapes stand out. He focused mostly on straight lines and angular shapes, using light and dark colors to show contrast. What instruments are they playing? (guitar, clarinet) Can you find the dog? Do the people look the way people really look? This bold, large painting is one of the last that Picasso made in the cubist style.