

August Macke was a German [expressionist](#) painter. He was born on 03 January 1887 in Meschede, Germany. During his childhood he came into contact with the work of an artist which he loved and inspired him to be an artist.

He was considered very progressive and open to new ideas. He also had interest in the stage. He developed designs for stage sets, including those for a production of Macbeth, which led to an offer by the theater to employ him, but Macke turned it down.

In November 1906 he went on a trip to Paris and was introduced to French Impressionism he began to paint in this manner. He met [Franz Marc](#) in 1910 in Munich, and with him established the Blaue Reiter the following year. In 1912 they both journeyed to Paris, where they discovered Cubism. In 1914 he visited North Africa with [Paul Klee](#).

Macke was killed in battle, at the age of 27, that same year in World War I.

His early Impressionist style developed into a use of strong, sunlit color applied in painterly facets of light. His preferred subject matter remained urban scenes of shopping and leisure. His North African work had a more structured appearance, and in 1913 he experimented with pure abstraction and also produced many watercolors.

August Macke was a Cubist.

Cubism

Cubism was the first 'abstract' art style which began in the early 1900s when artists Georges Braque (French) and Pablo Picasso (Spanish) began painting in such a way that was far removed from traditional art styles.

The Cubists tried to create a new way of seeing things in art. Many of their subjects, whether they were people or landscapes, were represented as combinations of basic geometric shapes - sometimes showing multiple viewpoints of a particular image.

This approach was related more to the way we see images in our 'minds-eye' rather than in real life, that is if we close our eyes and try to see an image, perhaps of a friend or a family member, it is often hard to visualize the 'whole' image - we usually see parts or fractured pieces. Cubist pictures are therefore often described as looking like pieces of fractured glass.