

## **Pablo Picasso**

Pablo Picasso was born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain. His father was an art teacher and was therefore able to identify young Pablo's talent at a very young age. Following his father's teachings, Picasso held his first exhibition at the age of 16; his paintings at this time were "interesting" to art critics and he was considered an accomplished painter. At the age of 20, Picasso moved to France where he spent the rest of his life.

From the age of 20 on, Picasso art career is commonly referred to in terms of periods, each characterized by different influences and personal interests. The first period is called the Blue Period.

Any guesses why it's called the Blue Period?

During his Blue Period, Picasso's paintings were melancholy in mood and subject matter (which means they were sad and even depressing), flat of form (only 2 dimensional) and nearly monochromatic (which means his paintings were almost entirely different shades of one color; being blue.) This Period reflected Picasso's life at that time; he was living in Paris and frequently observed the cruel conditions of city life...poverty, sickness and even death.

Next came Picasso's Rose Period. Who would like to guess some of the characteristics of this period?

The Rose Period occurred five years after the Blue Period and featured a more romantic mood and a delicate color... pale red or rose. This was a happier time in his life, in fact, this is when he met his wife Ferdinand. Picasso and Ferdinand evidently visited the circus frequently between 1904 and 1909 as many of his subjects were of a circus or acrobatic nature.

Five years later, Picasso became interested in African primitive carvings. This interest led to the creation and introduction of "Cubism" to the art world. Cubism is a form of art where common objects are distorted and shaded; sometimes allowing you to see different sides of an object at once. To do this (or create something in the cubist-style), an artist must look at objects in their most simple geometric shape. Notice also that there are no realistic details...the bottle has no label, the type of fruit is not easily identifiable, etc.

Our print today is an example of Picasso's cubist style. Our project today will be to create a cubist-style still life. However, first let me wrap up our history on Picasso.

Later in life Picasso created art in what is considered the White Period, in a fusion of all of his previous periods and in collage.

Picasso is best known for his paintings, in fact, he created more than 20,000 pieces of art during his lifetime. However, he also was skilled in sculpture, ceramics, engravings and theatre design.

In review of Picasso's life and contribution to the art world, many critics consider Picasso a "genius." He also is considered the father of modern art as a result of his enormous talent, imagination and vitality.

Picasso died in 1973 at the age of 91. Now, I want you to think about something...some art historians and critics feel Picasso's popularity is due in part to the era in which he lived (between 1881 and 1973) can you think of anything that occurred or was invented during this time period that would enable people from outside his hometown of Paris to enjoy his art?

Printing presses, poster-art, and television all brought Picasso's work to a world-wide audience that had never before been available! Picasso was the first artist to have a mass audience.