

Cubism

Cubism is a style of art which shows objects and people from lots of different angles all at one time. This is done through the use of cubes and other shapes. Picasso worked alongside another artist called George Braque.



Pablo Picasso

Picasso was Born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain, he was the son of an art teacher. His family moved to Barcelona, where he went to a fine art school.

Picasso's full name had 23 words in his name. It was Pablo Diego Jose Francisco De Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria De Los Remedios Cipriano De La Santisima Trinidad Martyr Patricio Clito Ruiz Y Picasso. Picasso's father, Jose Ruiz Blaso was also a painter who painted birds as his specialized subject. When Picasso was 14 years old, his sister Conchita died at the age of seven. He was greatly affected by her death. Picasso moved to the finest arts school in Madrid at the age of 16.

After finishing art school, at the age of 19 Picasso moved to Paris, it was here that he helped develop a revolutionary new style of painting which transformed everyday objects, landscapes, and people into geometric shapes. In 1908 art critic Louis Vauxcelles, saw some of their landscape work and described them as 'bizarreries cubiques'. This is how the cubist movement started.

As well as painting, Picasso was also a sculptor, a poet and worked with pottery.

Picasso went through a period known as his "Blue Period" this lasted from 1901 to 1904. Picasso was depressed he found it difficult to spend time with his friends and spent a lot of time on his own. During this time his mood reflected in his work. Most of his paintings were very serious and mostly done in blues and greens.

One of Picasso's most famous works of art is Guernica, this was painted in 1937. Guernica is a town in Spain at the time there was a Civil War in Spain. Picasso was horrified by what happened as the town was completely destroyed so he recreated this in his painting.

By comparing a cubist still life with an earlier still life painted using a more traditional approach, we can see immediately just what it is that made cubism look so radically different from earlier painting styles.

Other artists who were experimenting with different ways of depicting the world around them. Artists such as Juan Gris, Albert Gleizes, Jean Metzinger and Robert Delaunay who all worked in a cubist style.