

Picasso

YEAR 5 ARTIST PROJECT- LESSON 6



11: I understand what cubism was and produce artwork to reflect this style

Last week we looked at the influence of African art on Picasso.

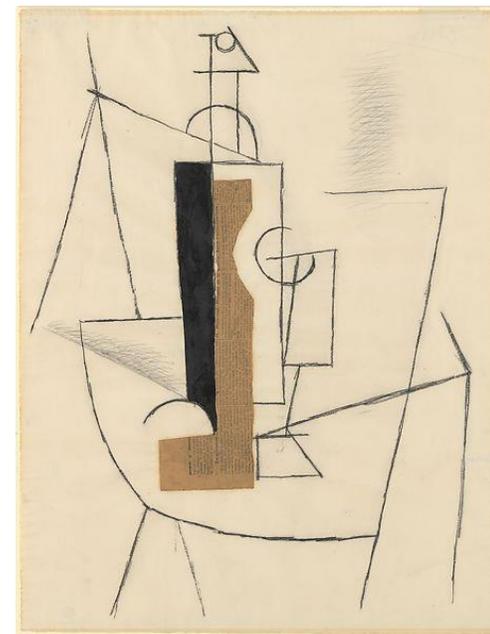
This week we are going to discover what cubism is.

From your research in the first week, you would have come across this word.

What do you know or understand about CUBISM?

If you look it up in a dictionary it says: an early 20th-century **style** and **movement** in art, especially painting, in which **perspective** with a **single viewpoint** was abandoned and use was made of simple **geometric shapes**, **interlocking planes**, and, later, collage.

Let's see if we can understand what this means!

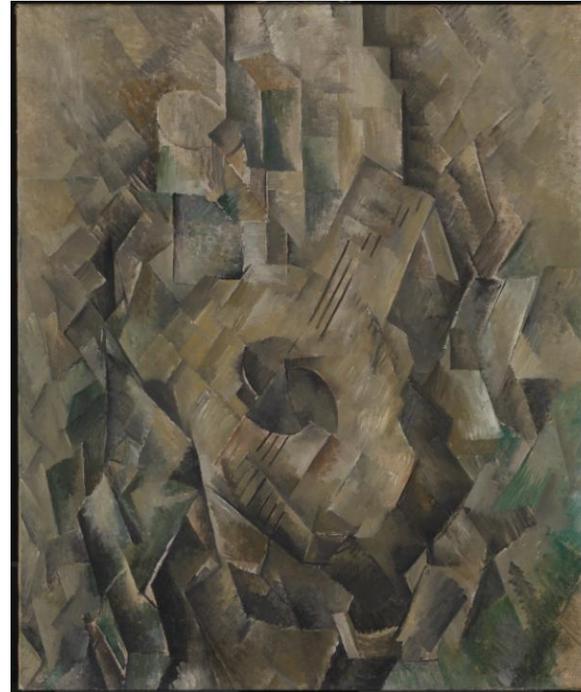


What do you see when you look at this painting? What do you think the title of it is? How many rectangles can you see?

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Cubism: art which aims to show all of the possible viewpoints of a person or an object all at once.

It is called Cubism because the items represented in the artworks look like they are made out of cubes and other geometrical shapes

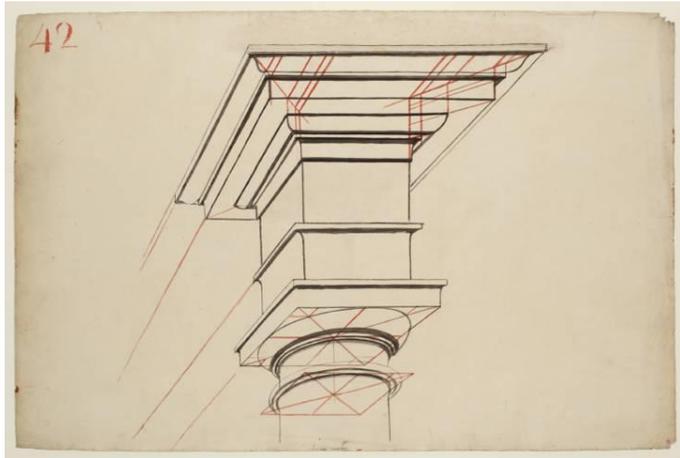


Both of these still lives have musical instruments but they look very different. How would you describe the differences? Which one do you like better? Why? One of these paintings is cubist, can you tell which one?

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← Cubism looks very different to lots of other styles of painting. How does it work? What were Braque and Picasso's reasons for turning their back on traditional techniques? How did the cubists develop their new style? Since the Renaissance in the fifteenth century, European artists had aimed to create the illusion of three-dimensional space in their drawings and paintings. They wanted the experience of looking at a painting to be like looking through a window onto a real landscape, interior, person or object.



← How do you make things look three-dimensional on a two-dimensional surface? Techniques such as **linear perspective** and **tonal gradation** are used. Perspective involves making things look bigger and clearer when they are close up, and smaller and less clear when they are further away. By doing this you can create the illusion of space. Artists also use tones (shadows) to create the illusion of three-dimensional objects. By gradually changing the darkness of a shadow, you can make something look solid.

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The cubists however, felt that this type of illusion is trickery and does not give a real experience of the object.

Their aim was to show things as they really are, not just to show what they look like. They felt that they could give the viewer a more accurate understanding of an object, landscape or person by showing it **from different angles or viewpoints**, so they used **flat geometric shapes** to represent the **different sides and angles of the objects**. By doing this, they could **suggest three-dimensional qualities and structure** without using techniques such as perspective and shading.

This breaking down of the real world into flat geometric shapes also emphasized the two-dimensional flatness of the canvas. This suited the cubists' belief that a painting should not pretend to be like a window onto a realistic scene but as a flat surface it should behave like one.



Can you tell what objects are in this still life? Is there more than one view of them?

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These still lives were painted by Picasso. Compare these to the ones he painted during his blue period. How are they different? Do you like them? Can you see how he has used geometric shapes? Can you see how he has tried to paint the different viewpoints in just one painting? What colours has he used? Which is your favourite? Why?



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You are going to do a cubist style drawing.

Watch this [video](#) carefully.

What do these words mean:

contour

form

object

horizontal

vertical

connecting

shading

cross hatching

stippling

texture

converging

smudging

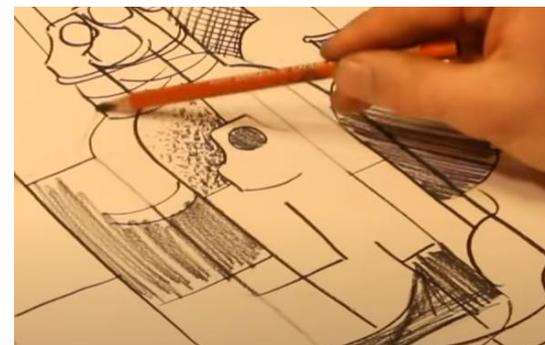
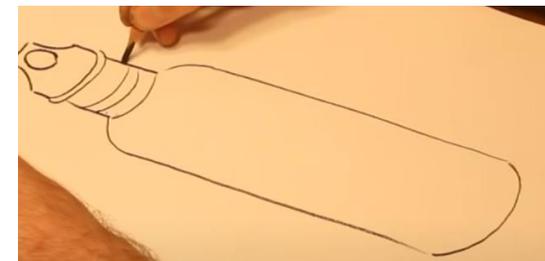
details

segmenting

repeating

layering

In your drawing, you may only want to choose one object, or you may wish to choose more but try not to make it too complicated.



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This drawing should be done in on a plain piece of paper (so it can be stuck into your sketchbook when you return to school).

If you want to add colour, you can do, but if you just want to use pencil, that is okay too.

Things to think about:

Showing your object/ objects from different viewpoints

Using geometric shapes to describe the object/s

Add shading in different ways- crosshatching, stippling

When you have finished, evaluate your own work. How did you find doing this drawing? What did you need to consider? Were you successful? Why? What changes would you make?

