

# The Cubism Era



**Cubism was a revolutionary** style of abstract modern art developed by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braques. It evolved at the beginning of the 20th century, taking place in Paris. It was a response to a world that was changing with much speed as well as rebelling traditional western art, trying to revitalise because they believed had run its course.

Characteristics

The Cubist style emphasized the flat, two-dimensional surface of the picture plane, rejecting the traditional techniques of perspective, foreshortening, modeling, and chiaroscuro, and refuting time-honoured theories that art should imitate nature. Cubist painters were not bound to copying form, texture, colour, and space; instead, they presented a new reality in paintings that depicted radically fragmented objects.





Pablo Picasso was born October 25, 1881 in Malaga, Spain. His father was also an artist as he conditioned his son to follow in his steps, providing nothing less than the best art lessons taught by him as well as a quality education. Pablo Picasso did it all, from painting, ceramics, stage designer and everything else inbetween. He is now considered one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century. Considered radical in his work, Picasso continues to garner reverence for his technical mastery, visionary creativity and profound empathy. For nearly 80 of his 91 years on earth, Picasso devoted himself to an artistic production that he superstitiously believed would keep him alive, contributing significantly to, and paralleling the entire development of modern art in the 20th century, He then died April 8, 1973 in Mougins, France.







#### **Three Musicians**

Pierrot is wearing a blue and white suit; Harlequin is in the patterned costume, and,to the right, a friar in a black robe. This artwork is in the New York Museum of Modern Art now. It is part of series painted while he was with his young family at the Fontaineblueau in the summer of 1921.



Les Demoiselles d'Avignon

This was painted in 1907 and it was called the most innovative painting since the work of Giotto. The reductionism and contortion of space in the painting was incredible, and the dislocation of faces were explosive. It is said that these women were prostitutes.



Le Reve (The Dream)

This is a 1932 oil painting. He is portraying his 24-year-old mistress Marie-Thérèse Walter in this artwork. It belongs to Pablo Picasso's period of distorted depictions, with its oversimplified outlines and contrasted colors resembling early Fauvism.





## Characteristics of:

#### **Three Musicians**

- Flat, two dimensional
- solid, bright colours
- Sequence of planes, lines, and arcs
- Weightless, disembodied



#### Les Demoiselles d'Avignon

- Almost no depiction of depth
- Composition flat and severe
- Violent, distorted figures
- More than one suggested viewpoints
- Influenced by African sculpture



### Le Reve (The Dream)

- Highly contrasting colours
- Overly simplified depiction
  - Simple outlines



