



What I should already know:

About the work of a range of artists and their different styles.

Basic drawing skills including facial proportions, feature details and symmetry.

How to draw from real-life images focusing on shapes, lines and textures in a face.

Basic portrait art vocabulary like proportion, tone, shade, texture and line

At the end of this topic, I will know:

About the life and work of Pablo Picasso and the cubist movement.

How to experiment with drawing facial features in a cubist style, from different perspectives.

How to create a self-portrait reflecting the cubist style inspired by Pablo Picasso.

Key Facts:

Pablo Picasso



A Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker and ceramicist who lived between 1881-1973 and spent much of his life living in France. He was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Picasso was first taught to paint by his father at the age of 7. He was known as an experimenter as he changed his style many times throughout his long career. Picasso used colour to show emotion in his artwork and his use of colour often reflected his mood.

The Cubist Movement

The cubist movement is a style of art that began in the early 20th century where artists would bring together different views of the subjects (usually a person or object) from different viewpoints, all at the same time. It results in paintings that deliberately seem broken or fragmented – almost like a puzzle but that's what makes cubism art interesting and fun. Cubist artists like Picasso wanted to show that there's more than one way to see the world around us. At first, cubism paintings were monochromatic (so the viewer didn't focus on the colour), but Picasso changed this from 1912 – using colour and collage.

Significant works



The Old Guitarist

Picasso's most well-known painting from his Blue Period. It was painted just after the death of his close friend Casagemas. It shows a thin skeleton-like figure with distorted features. The brown guitar is the only shift in colour from the depressing blue tint throughout.

Guernica

A very large mural painting considered one of the world's greatest anti-war paintings. It was created in response to the death of his close friend Casagemas. It shows a thin skeleton-like figure with distorted features. The brown guitar is the only shift in colour from the depressing blue tint throughout.

The Weeping Woman

One of the most iconic works of the cubist movement. It represents a woman crying as a symbol of grief and human suffering in response to the horrors of the Spanish Civil War. Picasso used bold colours, geometric shapes and sharp lines to convey intense emotion and anguish.

Self-portraits: Aged 25 and facing death

Picasso completed many self-portraits throughout his life, which reflected his constantly changing style. Aged 25, Picasso had already begun developing his cubist style. His later portrait demonstrates several elements of surrealism.

Vocabulary

abstract art	A type of art that doesn't represent reality but rather multiple viewpoints. It is achieved using shape, colour and texture.
surrealism	An art movement that used strange, chaotic figures and shapes to show dreams and unconscious thoughts. Picasso began applying surrealist features to his paintings from around 1925. He often painted the 'fascinating face' of his new muse, Marie-Therese Walter.
monochromatic	Containing and using only one colour.
proportion	The relationship of one part to another e.g. the size of an eye to the size of a head.

How to paint like Pablo Picasso:

Step 1: Use black or dark blue paint for an outline of the face. This is just a rough guide at this point.

Step 2: Roughly paint in the background area with a large, flat brush.

Step 3: Look at the features of the model's face. Paint them within simple shapes (e.g. squares, triangles, rectangles).

Step 4: Add abstraction. Do this by moving your model around and seeing their face from different angles. Add the new features that you see in different simple shapes.

Step 5: Add in highlights and lowlights. Use extremely bright & dark colours to exaggerate the lightest & darkest areas of the model's face.

Things you'll need: Oil paints (bright colours), brushes, palette, canvas, rags.

A child's Picasso-inspired self-portrait.

The Blue Period



The Blue Period 1901-1904 is when Picasso painted monochromatic paintings in cold blue and blue-green colours. The paintings were often sombre and sad showing the downtrodden society.

The Rose Period



The Rose Period 1904-1906 shows more cheerful themes, for example carnivals, clowns and performers. Warmer colours such as red, orange and pink were used.