



Artists' Monthly

The Newsletter for Students of Art

Volume I, Number 7

April

Pablo Picasso



A Letter From The Artist

Dear Student,

On a visit to the beach when I was a young boy, I surprised my father by drawing a dolphin in the sand. My father was an art teacher. He thought I had talent, so he took me to his art studio to teach me to paint. When I was 13 my father said I was a child prodigy, and gave me all of his painting tools. He said that *he* did not need them anymore! This made me feel like I had a special talent to develop, so I got busy working.

When I was a student in school like you are now, I loved a chance to draw or paint. Once, my teacher scolded me for painting the sky bright red instead of blue! Always do what your teacher asks, but if you have an idea you like, try that, too – at the right time. It has been a long time since my days in school, and I still draw and paint. I also do many other kinds of artwork, like sculpture and ceramics. I hope you enjoy doing artwork for many years, just as I have.

Who Was Picasso?

Think of any art form, and Pablo Picasso (*pih-KAH-so*) probably worked in it. Born in Málaga, Spain in 1881, Pablo's first "art project" was scratching animal drawings on his living room wall with a nail. (*Do NOT try this at home!*) He became one of the world's most famous artists.

At age 15, this child prodigy painted *The Altar Boy*, just one of many beautiful realistic paintings that Pablo did when he was a young man. Like other artists, he sometimes got very discouraged. We can see this in the blue, green and gray tones that he used in all of his paintings from about 1901 to 1904. His subjects in this "Blue Period" were usually sad in some way – poor, unfortunate or lonely. *The Gourmet*, a painting of a young girl taking the last bit of food out of a bowl, has a flowing, circular movement. *The Guitar Player*, a painting of a dignified but poor man, is another well-known work from the Blue Period. Pablo's "Rose Period," a happier time, began in 1905, after he had moved to Paris. He used a warm rose color in paintings of his new friends in the circus: jesters, acrobats and clowns. *Family of Saltimbanques* (*sahl-teem-BANG-kos*) is a good example. Circus workers and performers were called saltimbanques.

Picasso's next idea was revolutionary. In his paintings, he showed several sides of an object at the same time. He was not trying to paint reality. He "took things apart" and put them back together in new way. Sound confusing? Wait until you look at one of these works, in the "Cubist" style! For example, in Picasso's
(Please see **Who Was Picasso**, other side)

ASK the ARTIST

Student: *Mr. Picasso, of all the types of art you do, what is your favorite?*

Mr. Picasso: My favorite is the type of art I am working on right now. And, when I finish this and go on to something new, *that* will be my favorite. I try many ideas that are new and experimental, and I get very, very interested in each one of them. So, my favorite is *always* changing!



An example of what Picasso could do with simple curved lines

(Who Was Picasso, continued)

Three Musicians (there are two versions), you will see three characters: Harlequin (*HAR-le-kin*) and Pierrot (*pyeh-RO*), both French clowns, and a monk. They wear colorful costumes, and have instruments and music to play. Can you find these things? Can you see how Picasso “built” the figures? The cube-like, angular shapes fit together like a huge jig-saw puzzle. Although many people thought this idea was terrible, Cubism became an important “step” in the development of artistic expression.

Picasso’s visit to Italy in 1917 probably inspired his “Classical Period.” Its paintings recall the ancient Greek and Roman statues that Picasso saw in Italy. He often painted a mother and child. Their figures were not square and angular as in Cubism, but soft and rounded like real people. He painted them to look as if they were chiseled from marble. *Paul, Son of the Artist*, from this period, shows Picasso’s son riding a donkey. Notice the strong look on the boy’s face, and the similarity between the brushstrokes used for the grass and for the donkey’s hair.

Picasso continued to work in Cubism as well as doing realistic paintings. He also was considered an expert in sculpture, drawing, graphics and ceramics. Any artist would be happy to be as good as Picasso was in any one of these things, but Picasso did them all! He worked until the time of his death in 1973.







HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

1. Name each of the five “periods” of Picasso’s creativity discussed here. Describe each of these styles. Name a work from each.
2. Name events in Picasso’s childhood which helped reveal his special talent.
3. Who are the *Three Musicians*? What is each one doing in the painting?
4. What was Picasso trying to accomplish with Cubism?
5. What event prompted *Guernica*?

In 1937, Picasso painted a great masterpiece showing the effects of a bombing on the Spanish city of Guernica (geh-NEE-ka). The bombing was during the Spanish Civil War. The town and its innocent people were destroyed. Picasso’s rage shows in this huge painting, 25’ wide by 12’ high – it looks like a scene from a nightmare. Picasso did not want the painting to go to Spain until democracy was restored. After 40 years in the United States, the painting, Guernica, is now back in Madrid, Spain, in the museum called the Prado.

AN ART WORDGAME

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct answers. Use the shaded letters to answer the bonus question.

1. Picasso painted friends from the:
_ _ _  _ _ _ _
2. Cubist works look like this type of puzzle:
_ _ _ _ _ _  
3. This museum now houses *Guernica*:
_ _ _ _ _ 
4. Young Pablo drew this mammal in the sand:
_ _ _ _ _  _ _ _
5. Picasso’s early time of melancholy paintings:
_  _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

BONUS QUESTION: Who is next month’s artist?
(He was one of the creators of Pop Art.)





Activity Pages!

for Artists' Monthly

Volume I, Number 7

Pablo Picasso

M A B C R E I L D S
S W O R D



S C R A M B L E D
W O R D S

R A D G W I N → _____

C A M S I R C E → _____

H A R P G I C S → _____

R U L E S C U T P → _____

Mr. Picasso worked in all of the above art forms in addition to his:

G I P A T I N N → _____

C B T Y J S
A L W G E I
V H O A E K
M G R F N Z
I C D A V M
H U Y P J S

Find these words...

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|
| BLUE | BEACH | TALENT | CUBISM | GUERNICA |
| ROSE | SPAIN | CIRCUS | STATUES | CLASSICAL |
| MONK | CHILD | STUDIO | ACROBAT | PIERROT |
| DRAW | ITALY | PUZZLE | ANIMALS | HARLEQUIN |

... in this block of letters.

T A B O R C A W A R D
Y C C L A S S I C A L
L L O S E U T A T S I
A N I M A L S S E Y H
T T O U O M S I B U C
I N A C I N R E U G N
B E R E D Y K S E S I
E L Z Z U P A O N D A
A A U S T O R R E I P
C T I E S C I R C U S
H A R L E Q U I N N G

Write the **UNUSED** letters from the letter block in the blanks below. Enter the letters in order, beginning at the top left of the letter block, and complete this sentence:

Mr. Picasso once said, "To draw, you

must ... _____

_____ "

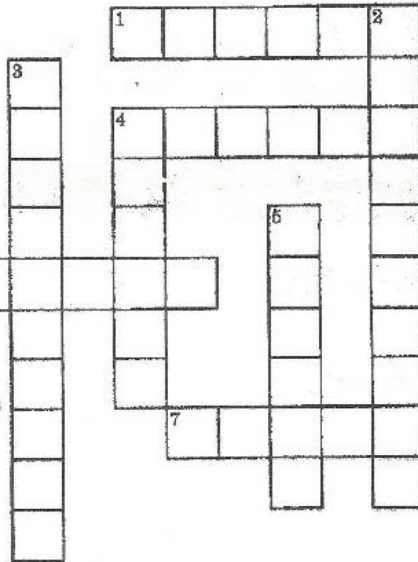


A C R O S S

1. Pablo's first art teacher was his ...
4. Harlequin and Pierrot are famous French ...
6. Young Pablo surprised his father by drawing a picture of this in the sand.
7. This Madrid art museum is where Mr. Picasso's *Guernica* is displayed.

D
O
W
N

2. This is the time Mr. Picasso lived in Paris, when his works had a pink tone and a happy feeling.
3. During this time in the early 1900s, Mr. Picasso's works were in tones of blue, green and gray..
4. Mr. Picasso was a pioneer of this artistic style, which "takes things apart" (on paper) and shows several sides of an object at the same time.
5. This subject of this famous painting from Mr. Picasso's blue period is playing this musical instrument.



1. The Spanish word *saltimbanques* describes certain people who work in the : 6 4 2 23 7
2. Mr. Picasso was born in the Spanish town of : 1 6 11 10 33 14
3. During his Classical Period, Mr. Picasso painted his son riding a : 15 9 28 19 16
4. The artworks from his Classical Period were inspired by the statues Mr. Picasso saw in : 20 24 25 21
5. Pablo's father was so impressed with his son's talent that he gave Pablo his set of : 3 29 27 30 26 32 34 36 12 18 22 8
6. It really surprised young Pablo's father when Pablo drew a dolphin in the sand on : 39 37 31 17 35 38 40

Use your answers above as a **K**ey. Enter the numbered letters from above in the matching numbered blanks below to complete this sentence:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 12 1 14 15 16 17 18 9 19
 20 21 22 23 8 24 2 25 26 27 12 28 7 29 30 15 15 31 8 32 33 34 35 15
 36 37 16 38 39 31 2 3 2 18 15 23 40 24 4 9 28 7