

Title: *Interior*

Artist: Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

Art Movement: Cubism

Date: 1926 (printed)

Dimensions: 9 ½ x 11 ½ inches

Medium: Lithography

Acquisition #: 2002.6.128

Additional works in the collection by the artist? Yes No



MoFA
Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts



Artist's Biography

Pablo Picasso (25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973) was a Spanish painter who spent most of his adult life in France. Regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, he is known for co-founding the Cubist movement. Among his most famous works are the Proto-Cubist *Les Femmes d'Alger* (1911), and *Guernica* (1937), a dramatic portrayal of the bombing of Guernica by German and Italian forces. Picasso's work is often categorized into periods. While the names of many of his later periods are debated, the most commonly accepted periods in his work are the Blue Period (1901–1904), the Rose Period (1904–1906), Primitivism/Proto-Cubism (1907–1909), Analytic Cubism (1909–1912), and Synthetic Cubism (1912–1919). Much of Picasso's work of the late 1910s and early 1920s is in a neoclassical style, and his work in the mid-1920s often has characteristics of Surrealism.

Analytic Cubism

Based on Paul Cézanne's three main ingredients - **geometricity**, **simultaneity** (multiple views) and **passage** - Cubism tried to describe, in visual terms, the concept of the **Fourth Dimension (time)**. It is a conceptual approach to realism in art, which aims to depict the world as it is and not as it seems. The area that connects two different planes (top and side) to one another is **passage**. The simultaneous views of two planes (top and side) is **simultaneity**. The emphasis on clear outlines and geometric forms is **geometricity**. To know an object from different points of view takes time, because you move the object around in space or you move around the object in space. Therefore, to depict multiple views (simultaneity) implies the **Fourth Dimension (time)**.



Above: *Girl with a Mandolin* (1910) by Pablo Picasso

An example of Analytic Cubism.

Below: *Harlequin Musician* (1924) by Pablo Picasso

An example of Synthetic Cubism.



What is a Lithograph?

Lithography uses porous limestone and simple chemical processes to create an image. The positive image is drawn with a water-repelling (hydrophobic) substance (wax crayon or tusche for painterly effect), while the negative space is coated with a water-retaining (hydrophilic) layer of calcium nitrate salt and gum arabic. The gum solution penetrates into the pores of the stone, completely surrounding the original image. The printer then removes the greasy drawing material, but a hydrophobic molecular film of it remains tightly bonded to the surface of the stone, ready to accept the oily ink.

Thus, when the plate is introduced to a compatible printing ink and water mixture, the ink will adhere to the positive image and the water will cling to the negative image. This allows a flat print surface to be used, enabling much longer and more detailed print runs than the older methods of printing (e.g. intaglio or woodblock printing).

Synthetic Cubism

Synthetic Cubism grew out of Analytic Cubism. It became more generalized, geometrically simplified, and flatter. Picasso and Braque discarded the idea of three dimensions in their work. The most noticeable change from Analytic Cubism is the color palette. In the previous period, the colors were very muted and many earth tones dominated the paintings. In Synthetic Cubism, bold colors ruled. Within their experiments, the artists employed a variety of techniques to achieve their goals, including collage.

Although this print by Picasso is in black and white, *Interior* (printed 1926) demonstrates the other characteristics of Synthetic Cubism.

Sources

<https://www.thoughtco.com/cubism-art-history-183315>
<https://www.thoughtco.com/synthetic-cubism-definition-183242>
<https://www.pablocicasso.org/>
<http://www.kurtseaberg.com/artist-essay-what-is-a-lithograph/>

Compiled by Abby Mann Summer 2018

Cubism is a style of art which aims to show various possible viewpoints of a person or an object 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. Cubism was first started by **Pablo Picasso** and Georges Braque. **Analytical Cubism** was the first type of Cubism. Most Analytical Cubist works were painted in monochrome (only one color) so that the person who was looking at the painting did not pay attention to color, but only to the shapes and the forms that were being shown. This changed in 1912 when Picasso first started painting his Cubist works with color and using collage. This new form of Cubism was called **Synthetic Cubism**.

Synthetic Cubism Portrait (3-5)

Activity Session: First, explain Cubism and its two stages – Analytical and Synthetic. Then introduce the activity to students, using examples of Synthetic Cubism by Pablo Picasso and the image at right. Next, students will be paired and begin to draw their portraits. After the initial drawing is complete, provide students with markers or paint and collage materials. Colors should be bright and deeply saturated.

Objectives:

1. Students will be introduced to the basics of Cubism and its 2nd stage, Synthetic Cubism.
2. Students will complete a portrait in the style of Synthetic Cubism.

Procedure:

1. Partner students into pairs.
2. Using a geometric template stencil, students will draw their partners using only geometric shapes. Make sure students include eyes, ears, nose, mouth, neck, eyebrows, and hair.
3. Do a demonstration portrait in front of the class before students begin.
4. Each section created by the overlapping shapes will be colored using a different brightly colored marker or paint.
5. Students may also collage sections with scraps of brightly colored paper or fabric.

Materials: Drawing Paper, Geometric Template Stencil, Markers, Paint and Paintbrushes, Brightly Colored Construction Paper, Fabric Scraps, Scissors, Glue



Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (3-5)

Big Idea: Skills, Techniques, and Processes

Enduring Understanding 3: Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

VA.3.S.3.1 Use materials, tools, and processes to achieve an intended result in two- and/or three-dimensional artworks.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (6-12)

Big Idea: Skills, Techniques, and Processes

Enduring Understanding 2: Development of skills, techniques, and processes in the arts strengthens our ability to remember, focus on, process, and sequence information.

VA.912.S.2.2 Focus on visual information and processes to complete the artistic concept.

Analytical Cubism Photographic Portrait (6-12)

Activity Session: First, explain Cubism and its two stages – Analytical and Synthetic. Then introduce the activity to students, using examples of Analytical Cubism by Pablo Picasso and the image at left. Next, students will be paired and begin photographing their partners. Once several photographs have been taken, students will collage them in Photoshop. If access to Photoshop is unavailable, photos can be printed and collaged by hand.

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the basics of Analytical Cubism.
2. Students will complete portraits in the style of Analytical Cubism.

Procedure:

1. Partner students into pairs.
2. Students will walk slowly around their partners and take a series of black and white photographs from various angles.
3. Students will then collage the photographs together to create new images using Photoshop.

Materials: Digital Camera, Computer, Photoshop

