

Revised Sept. 2011

FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES: PABLO PICASSO (1881 - 1973)

“The Red Armchair”

Oil and Enamel, The Art Institute of Chicago

"Le Gourmet" (The Greedy Child)

Oil on Canvas, Chester Dale Collection, New York

Supplies Needed:

- * Framed print of "Le Gourmet" from the art closet
- * Framed print of "The Red Armchair" hanging in the Art Gallery
- * Laminated visual aids, #1 - 6 of other works from supply box (6 total)
- * White construction paper for portrait from teacher's workroom
- * Students will need crayons and/or markers
- * Colored construction paper for matting from teachers' workroom
- * Copies of "Three Musicians" hand out for students (master in supply box)
- * Mr. Potato Head toy from supply box
- ** Project sample
- * **Picasso, 1881-1914** and **Picasso**, by Venizia in supply box for reference

Reference Books

- * Picasso and Portraiture, William Rubin
- * Pablo Picasso, Lowery
- * Pablo Picasso, Meadows
- * Picasso, Jose' Faerna
- * Pablo Picasso, I. F. Walther
- * Picasso, Roland Penrose
- * Picasso, Marina Bessonova

AHEAD OF TIME NOTE: Please make copies of master for "Famous Artist Series" note and "Three Musicians" hand out for students.

Pablo Picasso was one of the most famous and versatile artists of our time. The painter, sculptor, potter, graphic artist, poet and campaigner for peace produced works that changed the course of painting in the 20th century. He created new ways of looking at reality.

Present laminated photo #1 of Picasso and review sayings of his on back of picture.

Picasso was born in Spain in 1881. His father was an art teacher and artist. When Picasso was just 13 he attended the School of Fine Arts where his father taught.

Present laminated picture #2 of "Altar Boy" that Picasso painted when he was just 15 years old! On reverse show them painting that Picasso did when he was 57 of "Boy in Sailor Suit with Butterfly Net". Ask the students if they see a difference in his style.

Picasso's early years (1901-1904) are often called his "Blue Period". His friend had died and he was very sad and lonely. His mood was reflected in the color of blue in all of his paintings. Blue is seen as a very sad and cool color. For comparison, red would be a "warm" color.

Present framed picture of "Le Gourmet". Some people called it the "Greedy Child". He is tipping the bowl to scrape out the last bit of food. Note the scrap of bread on table. Ask the students if they feel sad when they look at this painting. Point out the many shades of blue.

When Picasso fell in love, happier colors showed up in his paintings. This was the beginning of his "Rose Period". He painted many pictures of circus people with whom he also became friends. He was fascinated with the circus people, especially the clowns.

Present laminated picture #3 of "Circus". How does this look different from his Blue period? Do the subjects look happier? Ask the students about the colors they see and how this picture makes them feel.

The Rose Period didn't last long; Picasso found a new way to paint that was exciting and very different. It was called Cubism. Cubism tried to show what things looked like from different angles at the same time, or how much space an object, like a table, would encompass.

Using the laminated picture #4, compare a regular table to a Cubist table. He tried to show on his painting how this table takes up space just the way it takes up space in a room. This was the very early stage of Cubism. Ask the students if they can see the differences in the table. How do they look different?

Cubism became one of the most important periods in the history of modern art. As Cubism developed, it became harder to recognize the people and objects in the paintings, because the images were broken up into tiny cubes, with bits of the cubes re-arranged all over the painting. They didn't look the way people and objects were supposed to look and people were shocked.

Present first example of Cubism – laminates #5a and #5b, Portrait of Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler. Ask the students if they see his eyes, mustache, two folded hands and table with glass on top. Does it look like a reflection in a broken mirror? Can they see any resemblance to the man who posed for it? Pass around laminate picture so students can take a closer look. (This painting is at The Art Institute of Chicago.)

Picasso continued to shock people and started painting people who had eyes and noses in the wrong places.

Present framed picture of "The Red Armchair". This is another example of Picasso's cubism, but how is it different from the painting we just looked at? (more colorful, softer lines) What do you see in the painting? Who do you think is sitting in the chair? Notice that you can see the model's face frontally, but also in profile. How many noses do you see, and lips?

Present laminated picture of "Weeping Woman" (reverse of laminate #3).

People liked the way Picasso spent his entire life creating new forms and techniques of art. Picasso lived to be 92 years old and not only did he paint, but he made sculpture, pottery, prints and collages too. It is said that he painted until dawn the night before he died.

Picasso also has a sculpture in Chicago. He was commissioned to do this when he was 85 years old and it is in front of the Daley Center. Show laminate #6 of sculpture. Its abstract design has puzzled many people. One Butterfield student commented that the sculpture looks like a sphinx, can the students see that interpretation?

PROJECT:

Today we are going to draw a self-portrait (a picture of yourself), only we are going to do it the way Picasso would have done it. (Use a Mr. Potato Head and ask for a volunteer to put the arms, mouth, eyes, etc. in unusual spots. This will demonstrate the idea that things don't have to go in their usual place.) Follow the attached diagram, as you walk the students through creating their own portrait. Use white construction paper, colored markers or crayons to complete portrait. Show them again the portrait of "Weeping Woman" and example that is matted in art supply box. When completed matte portraits in class if there is time remaining.

FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES

Pablo Picasso

Today in class a volunteer parent presented the works of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso to your child's class. They learned about the many styles and techniques of Picasso's art, as well as made an art project in the style of his work. Ask your student about Picasso's Blue Period or if they can tell you what "Cubism" means. Attached is a copy of "Three Musicians" that your child may color.

There are a few children's stories which talk about Picasso's art: Anna's Art Adventure by Isadora , When Picasso Met Mootise by Laden and Molly Meets Mona and Friends by Minnerly.

The Art Institute of Chicago owns 22 works of art by Picasso in many mediums. Some of the more famous are "The Old Guitarist" and "Jester". In addition, the Daley Plaza in Chicago has a sculpture created by Picasso in 1967 when he was 85 years old. It is untitled.

Sincerely yours,

Art Volunteer