

**CUBISM**

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# Impressionism

1870s-1890s



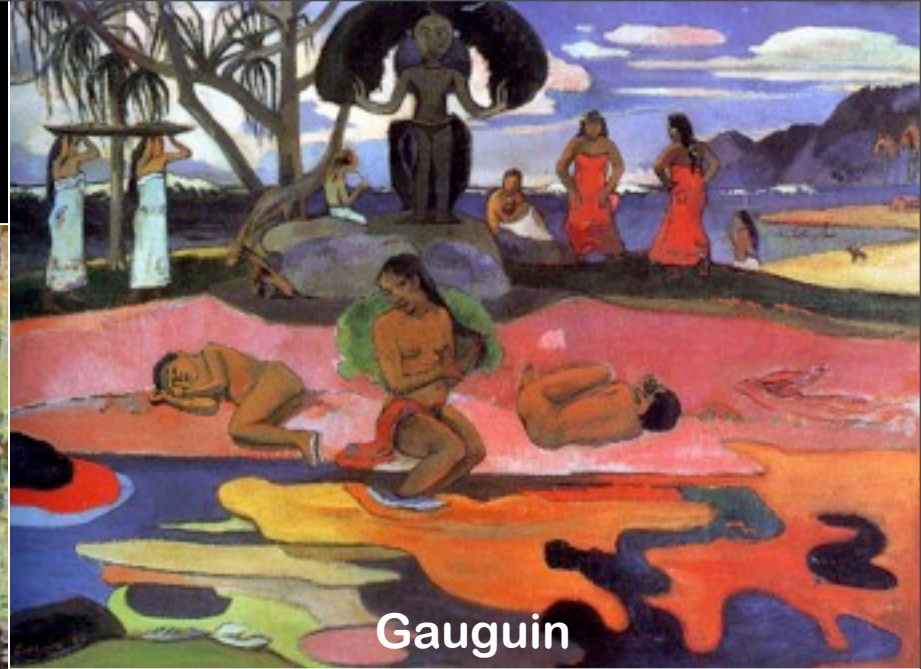


# Post-Impressionism

1880s-1920's



van Gogh



Gauguin



Seurat



Post-Impressionist, Paul **Cézanne** said, “artists should treat nature in terms of the cylinder, the sphere and the cone.”

**CEZANNE** used flat patches of colour, no atmospheric perspective & simplified objects into geometric shapes & planes





George Braque  
1909

**Cubism** developed in France between 1907 and the early 1920's. French art critic first used the term "cubism", or "**bizarre cubiques**", in 1908 after seeing a picture by Braque. He described it as "full of little cubes"

# Cubism



## CUBISM & Multiple View Points

Cezanne's way of breaking the painted surface into small multifaceted areas of paint, thereby emphasizing the plural viewpoint influenced Cubism.

However, the Cubists explored this concept further than Cézanne.



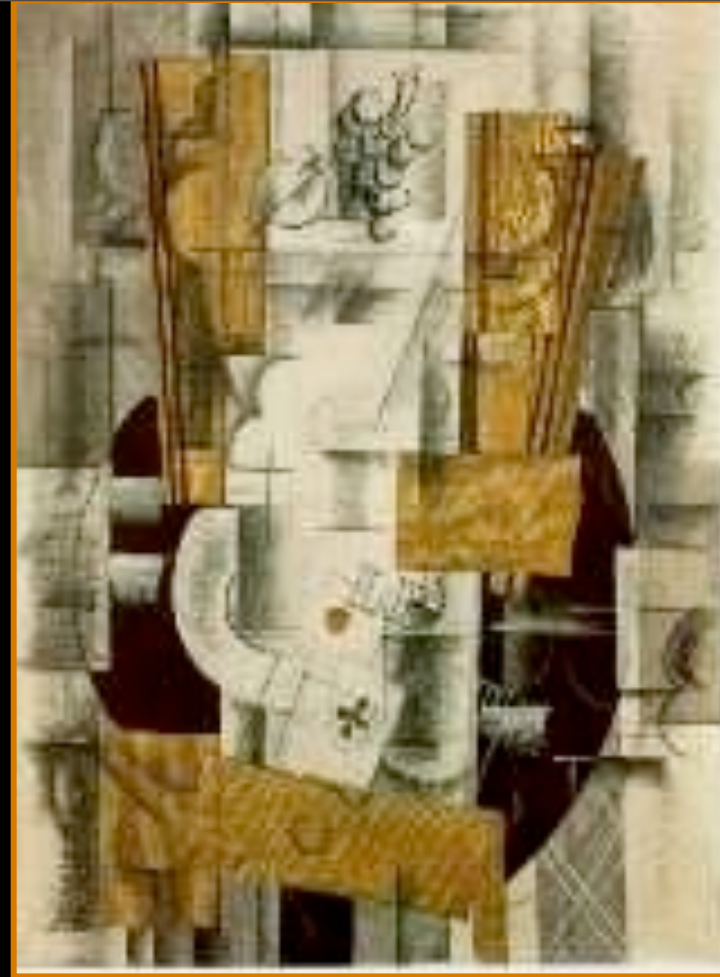
Picasso, [Girl with Dark Hair](#)



Picasso, [Dora Maar au Chat](#), 1941

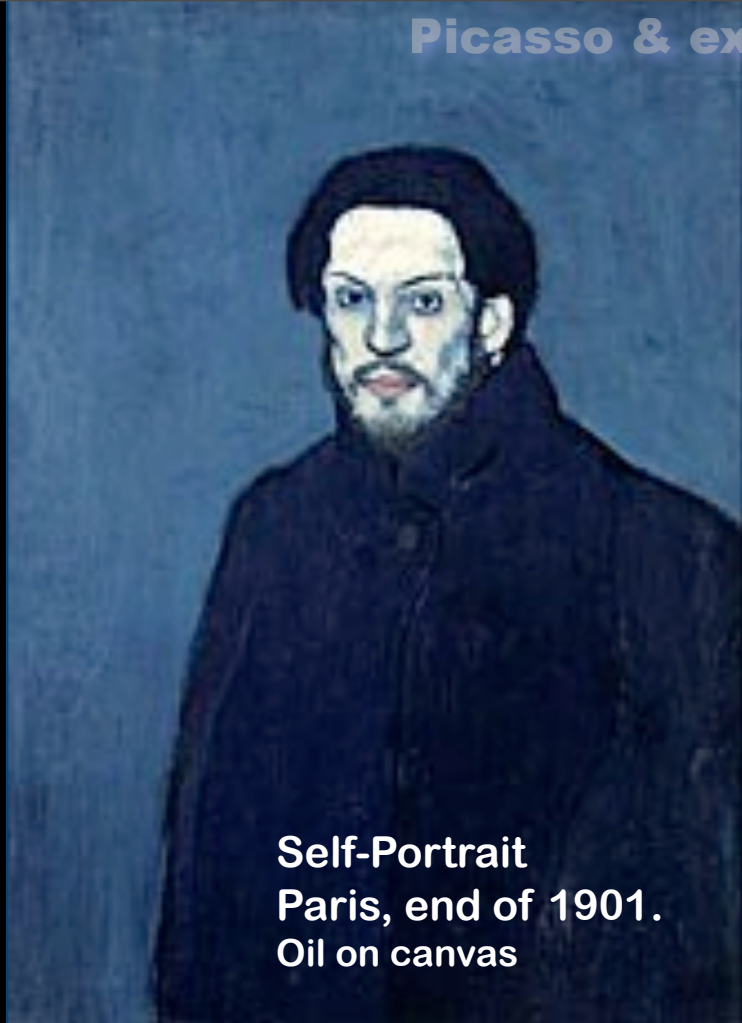


Picasso, *Fruit in a Vase*, 1909 Oil on canvas



Braque, *Fruit Dish, Ace of Clubs*, early 1913  
Mixed media on canvas

Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque initiated this new way of depicting space by **cutting-up**, **distorting** and **transforming** images into different planes and views.



Self-Portrait  
Paris, end of 1901.  
Oil on canvas

## The Blue Period

Shortly after moving to Paris from Barcelona, Picasso began to produce works that were primarily blue. This particular pigment is effective in conveying a somber tone. The psychological trigger for these depressing paintings was the suicide of one of his friends.

Picasso was only twenty years old when he painted this **Blue Period** self-portrait. He presents himself as a romantic, bohemian figure - a moody young artist who fixes the viewer with an almost hypnotic stare.





**Pablo Picasso,  
The Old Guitarist,  
1903**

**- Picasso became concerned with those who were living on the edge of society (as he did), identifying his misery with theirs**

## Rose Period



**Woman in a Chemise**  
(Madeleine) Paris, winter  
1904-5. Oil on canvas



In 1905-6, Picasso's palette began to lighten considerably, bringing in a distinctive **beige** or "**rose**" tone. The subject matter also is less depressing.

Picasso, **The Toilet**, 1906

**Early Rose Period:** Picasso's figures became more delicate and graceful and his colouring more varied. Blue tones still prevail here, but the paint has been applied much more transparently than in earlier works.



In late 1906, **Picasso** started to paint in a truly revolutionary manner. Working alongside his friend **Georges Braque**, he began to express space in strongly geometrical terms. These initial efforts at developing this almost sculptural sense of space in painting are the beginnings of **Cubism**.



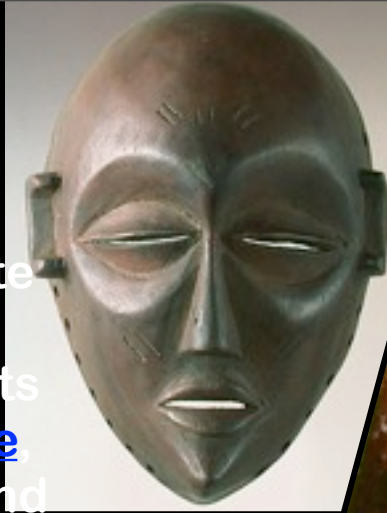
**Pot, Glass and Book, 1908  
Picasso,**



Braque's abstracted landscapes reflect Cezanne's influence of reducing objects into geometric planes.

# Going Native

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the European cultural elite were discovering Primitive, non-European art for the first time. Artists such as [Paul Gauguin](#), [Henri Matisse](#), and [Pablo Picasso](#) were intrigued and inspired by the stark power and simplicity of styles of those foreign cultures .







**Pablo Picasso**

**Les Femmes  
d'Alger. 1935.**

Oil on canvas

The Museum of Modern Art,  
New York.

- ❑ almost no depiction of depth
- ❑ composition flat and severe
- ❑ violent, distorted figures
- ❑ suggestion of more than one viewpoint – angularly distorted
- ❑ influenced by African sculpture
- ❑ Depicts unfeminine yet provocative view of these prostitutes.

In creating Les Femmes d'Alger, Picasso turns his back on middle-class society and the traditional values of the time, opting for the sexual freedom depicted in a brothel. Picasso is met with almost unanimous shock, distaste, and outrage.

# Analytical Cubism

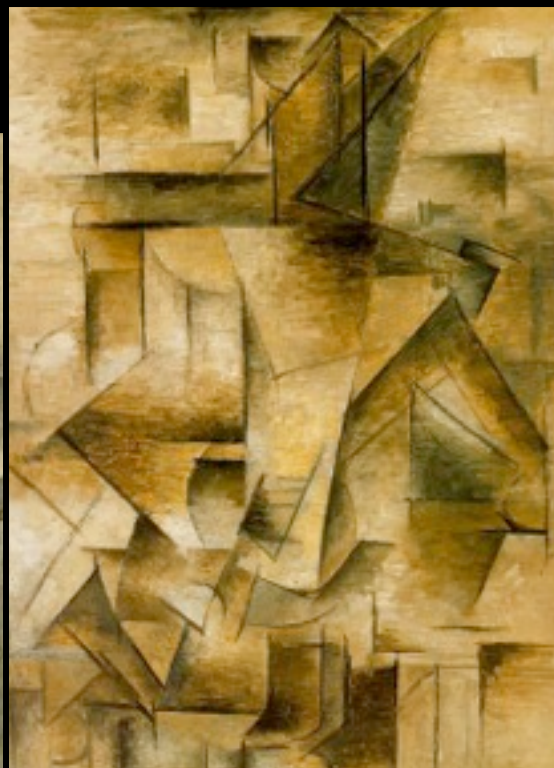
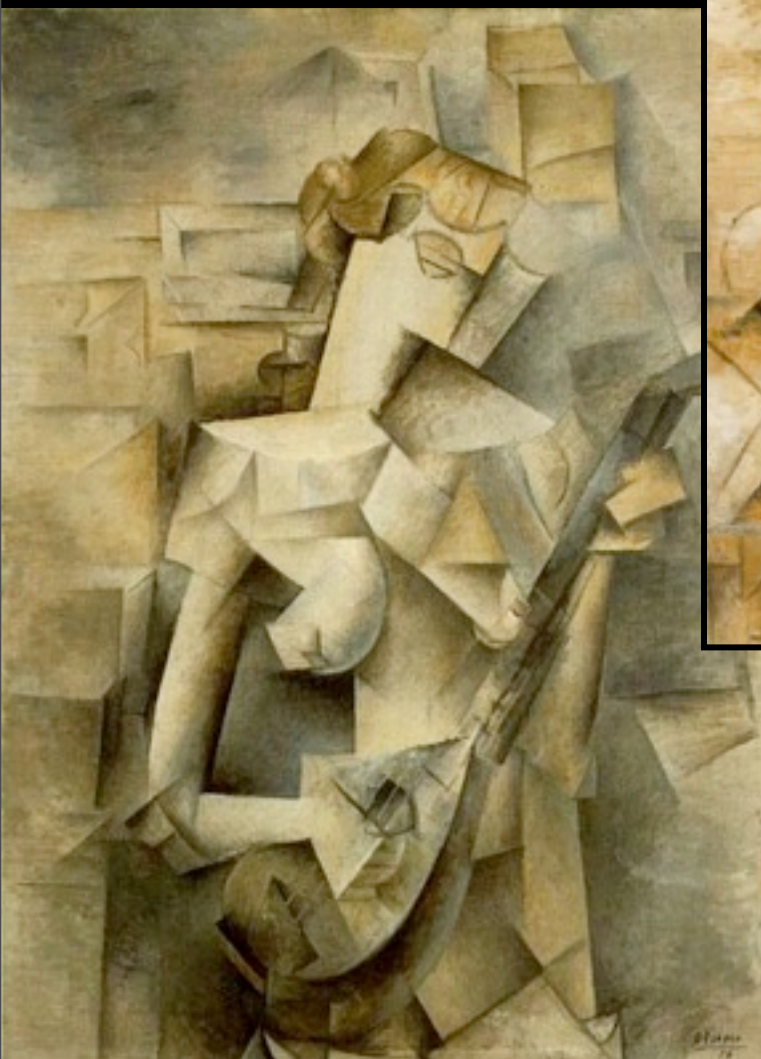
- ❑ By 1910, **Picasso** and **Braque** had developed Cubism into an entirely new means of pictorial expression.
- ❑ Objects were broken up, analyzed, and re-assembled in an abstracted form.
- ❑ Objects were depicted from multiple viewpoints.
- ❑ Often the surfaces intersect at seemingly random angles, removing a coherent sense of depth thus creating shallow ambiguous space.
- ❑ Colour was almost non-existent except for the use of a monochromatic scheme that often included grey, blue and ochre. They felt colour would interfere with the perception of the forms.



Pablo Picasso  
Portrait of Ambroise Vollard, 1910,  
Oil on canvas



**Pablo Picasso**  
**Girl with a Mandolin, 1910, Oil on**  
**canvas**



**Pablo Picasso**  
**The Guitar Player, 1910**  
**Oil on canvas**



**Pablo Picasso**  
**Portrait of Daniel –Henry Kahnweiler, 1910,**  
**Oil on canvas**



**Still Life with a Pair of Banderillas**  
**Georges Braque. Summer 1911**



**Georges Braque**  
**Woman with a Guitar, 1913**  
**Oil and charcoal on canvas**



## Synthetic Cubism 1912 -1919

- ❑ Picasso and Braque began to enter a new phase from around 1912.
- ❑ **Synthetic Cubism** grew out of Analytical Cubism and the experimental nature of Collage.
- ❑ **Synthetic cubism** is characterized by the introduction of different textures, surfaces, collage elements. It was the beginning of collage materials being introduced as an important ingredient of fine art work.
- ❑ **Synthetic Cubism** developed through a construction process (reassembling) rather than the analytical process and deconstruction (fragmenting) of Analytical Cubism.



[Picasso](#), Still Life with bowl and Fruit  
Paris, 1912  
Charcoal, black chalk, watercolour, oil  
paint, on newspaper







In his mural, **Guernica**, **Picasso** combines Expressionism & Cubism. Like the Expressionists, he exaggerates & distorts forms overlapping these flat shapes into an abstract Cubistic design. Picasso uses bold blacks, whites, & grays instead of colour to give the impression of a newspaper.

Guernica is a social commentary piece inspired by the bombing by the Nazi of that Spanish town for only the sake of testing the effectiveness of large-scale bombing. Most of the city & innocent civilians were destroyed in the “test.”