

# THE CUBIST MOVEMENT

Cubism was first developed as a joint effort between Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso in 1907. The movement wasn't long lived but it began an immense creative explosion in the art world. In Cubism the subject matter is broken up, analyzed and reassembled in an abstracted form. The key concept of cubism is that the essence of objects can only be captured by showing it from multiple points of view simultaneously. The work up until 1912 is known as analytical cubism. During this period the artists used a nonobjective approach and concentrated on using geometrical forms (the cube, the sphere, the cylinder and the cone) with subdued and monochromatic colors. Every aspect of the whole subject was seen simultaneously in a single dimension.

The synthetic phase (1913 through 1920's) featured works that were composed of fewer and simpler forms in brighter colors. During this phase Picasso and Braque also glued cloth, newspaper and other materials directly onto their canvases. This technique became known as collage. The term was derived from the French verb coller meaning to glue. They also used paper colle which consisted of pasting materials to a canvas with the pasted shapes representing objects themselves. Synthetic cubism attempted to synthesize and combine abstract shapes to represent objects in a new way.

Picasso and Braque's collaboration ended when Braque was called to fight in World War 1. But they and numerous other artists continued to devise new styles based on cubism into the second half of the 1900's. In fact many cubist techniques are still used today, especially collage.

Other major exponents of cubism included Robert Delaunay, Fernand Leger, Juan Gris and Marcel Duchamp.

References:

[www.artmovements.com](http://www.artmovements.com)

[www.ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org)

## THE FOLLOWING FOUR LESSONS

will highlight the lives of four artists from the cubist movement. Each lesson is designed to teach about the life of the artist and offers an assignment in the manner of the artist's style. The key is to flow with the activity and allow each lesson to create itself. Please remember you do not have to complete the assignments in one session. Feel free to take your time and enjoy the creative process. I would encourage you to keep a journal as well as

doing the projects. You may be surprised at the things you will learn about yourself as well as the artists you are studying

Level of Instruction: Beginner to Advanced

Course Length: 4 weeks

Medium: mixed media

Class Size: 10 maximum

Course Outline:

In each class we will discuss the life of a different artist. But don't forget as you do the assignments you'll be learning about yourself as well. Reflect on the questions at the end of each chapter. Write your answers in a journal. Pay attention to the colors and subjects you use and listen closely to your feelings while you create the work. In these assignments the process is just as important as the product.

Week One

- In the Manner of Picasso
- Creating my special place and a time for me
- Questions and reflections

Week Two

- In the Manner of Braque
- Questions and reflections

Week Three

- In the manner of Gris
- Questions and reflections

Week Four:

- In the manner of Leger
- Questions and reflections

Supplies:

- Paint and brushes
- glue
- Canvas or heavy paper

- For collage and papier colle gather together whatever you have on hand. Examples – old newspapers clippings, magazines, paper music, stickers, wallpaper scraps
- Computer and scanner to upload your work (if you choose to share your assignments)

I'm looking forward to working with you.

*JUDITH*