

# Study of Picasso

## 2 Days

**Principle:** Abstract, Asymmetry, & Cubism

**Concept:** To create an abstract portrait in black line on newspaper, then use chalk pastels to fill in Cubist shapes in and around the portrait.

**Objective:** To learn about the artist Pablo Picasso and his style of abstracting a face through asymmetry and Cubism.

<b>Supplies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ One folded full page of newspaper 13x20 (preferably the classified section in black and white. Keep folded so paint won't soak through)</li><li>✓ one 8½ x11 white scratch piece of paper</li><li>✓ black latex semi-gloss house paint</li><li>✓ paint brushes (acrylic or tempera, smaller works better)</li><li>✓ chalk pastels</li><li>✓ paper plates to put paint on</li><li>✓ water bowls for rinsing brushes</li><li>✓ hairspray to set the chalk after they are done</li><li>✓ hair dryers</li></ul>
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<b>Pre-Class Prep:</b>	Provide folded newspaper pages.
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<b>Set-up:</b>	<p><b>Day 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cover tables with old sheets or vinyl table cloths.</li><li>• Set out pencils for students to write their names on their papers.</li><li>• Set out paint brushes, black paint</li></ul> <p><b>Day 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place students drawings on table</li><li>• Chalk pastels</li></ul>
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**Prints:** 113, 114, 115, 115a-e, 116

**Samples:** See First Grade Art Folder

**Lesson:** **Demonstration:** Show students pictures of Picasso's work. Talk about his portraits of people and

how abstract (weird, twisted, crazy), asymmetrical (one eye high, one eye low, etc), and cubist (show the picture of the Three Musicians) they are. Tell students Picasso lived in Spain, he spoke Spanish and his first words were "piz, piz" – a shortening of the Spanish word for pencil. Picasso's father was also an artist. When Picasso was 13, his father found him painting over one of his sketches and realized the young Picasso would be a better painter than himself. See Wikipedia for detailed information on Picasso and his life.

Talk about different ways to draw a nose. Use the chalkboard and go crazy! Draw a silly face with asymmetrical eyes an angular nose etc. Divide the face or hair into geometric odd shapes. Erase your drawings on the chalkboard after you have done a demonstration. We do not want the kids to copy Picasso or even to copy you, but to come up with their own drawing.

### **Students:**

#### **Day 1:**

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1. On a separate piece of 8 ½ x 11 paper, have students practice sketching their abstract face. If students are confused about drawing their own free form abstract face, they can create an abstract face by using simple overlapping shapes such as squares, triangles and circles. Encourage students to draw their face large by using of the entire sheet of practice paper.
2. Have students paint the lines of their abstract portrait on the newsprint. Remind them to draw big and bold and asymmetrical, but **DO NOT** fill in the shapes with black, just draw black **OUTLINES** of the face and if they want they can draw the body too. Talk about the quality of the black line: their lines will be more interesting if they vary their lines using thick and thin lines instead of all the same thickness (don't water down the paint. Use it straight from the jar. It will dry faster). Use the long shape of the newspaper to create wonderful

lines and shapes. Remind them they will get to fill them in with chalk pastels later.

3. When they are done with their lines, have them clean up the brushes and plates.
4. **Day 2** - Show students more of Picasso's work and talk about colors he used and the boldness of his colors. Later in his life circus people, acrobats and comedic characters influenced the colors and mood of his paintings (oranges, pinks, yellows and other cheery colors).
5. Tell students they can pick three colors of pastels to use. Suggest at least one bright color if they chose neutrals. Show them how you use chalk pastels on their sides and rub, sometimes using your finger to smear colors. If they want to use more than three colors, have them share with their neighbor. Using different colors, have students fill in large areas (or shapes of color) throughout. See samples. It is okay to let the newsprint show through or even be pure newsprint in some areas, let them decide. There is no right or wrong way to do this...Have fun!
6. Have them title their art and write this on a label and stick it onto the back of their paper.

**If students finish early they can draw more Picasso like faces in their journals.**

<b>After Class:</b>	Set chalk pastels by spraying hairspray on the work. Allow to dry, then place in folders with an extra sheet of newsprint to protect it.
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### **Instructions for Instructors**

**Vocabulary:**

**Abstract** – Creating art that is not a realistic image but an imaginative, creative, expressive way to show the essence of something. Kid's words - weird, twisted, crazy, strange.

**Asymmetry** – Not symmetrical, not the same on each side. Kid's words- lop-sided.

**Cubism** – A style of painting where you divide your portrait or object into geometric shapes.

**Optional:**

To make this class really fun, you can purchase an inexpensive book of Picasso temporary tattoos from Art Media (downtown or Clackamas). Cut each tattoo out of the book. Have each student write their name on a ticket or paper scrap at the beginning of class and put them in a bucket. You can fill up time while the paint is drying by drawing names and giving the tattoos to the students whose names are drawn. (Best not to actually apply the tattoo – they can do this at home).

**Note on the Artist:**

Pablo Picasso was born in Spain. He loved to draw when he was a child. Supposedly he could even draw pictures before he could talk. He became so good at art that he attended art school at age 14. He moved to France when he was a young man because there was a war going on in Spain and it made Picasso so angry that he decided to leave. He even painted a very large painting called Guernica to express his anger at the war. This painting is very famous. Right now it is in a wonderful museum in Madrid, Spain. Picasso could speak Spanish, French, and a little English. He lived the rest of his life in France. For further information on Picasso, go online to Wikipedia.

Lesson plan created by Michelle Smit