

Picasso and the Masters 1881 - 1973

Paris Art Studies Late Autumn 2008

Picasso and the Masters - Chronology

1881 - 25 October - birth of Pablo Ruiz y Picasso, first son of painter and fine arts professor José Ruiz Blasco and Maria Picasso y Lopez, in Malaga (Andalusia).

1888 – First drawing lessons given by his father.

1891 - Family moves to Coruna (north-western Spain).

1892-93 – Attends School of Fine arts in Coruna aged 11.

1895 - Family moves to Barcelona (Catalonia). On the way Picasso visits Madrid and the Prado for the first time.

Studies at Barcelona school of fine arts.

1896 – Moves alone to Madrid and studies at San Fernando art academy. In Prado admires Velasquez, El Greco, Murillo, Titian, Van Dyck and Rubens.

1897 - Bored with academic teaching abandons his studies.

1898 – Copies Goya. Ill and lonely decides to return to Barcelona.

1899 – Tercentenary of birth of Velasquez. Picasso much inspired by El Greco, a painter only beginning to be re-appraised. One of this drawings is entitled “Yo, El Greco.” Picasso spends more time with young friends in Bohemian and literary circles at "Els Quatre Gats" café where he shifts to more modern styles of painting. Through painter Ramon Casas discovers the art of Daumier and Théophile Steinlen both modern French illustrators and caricaturists.

1900 - First trip to Paris with Carlos Casagemas his closest artistic friend. Stays with Catalan painter Isidoro Nonell in Montmartre. Visits centennial exhibition of French painting at Paris World's Fair. Impressed with Puvis de Chavannes, Corot, Courbet. Visits modern art galleries (Durand-Ruel, Vollard), Louvre (antique department) and the modern art museum at the Luxembourg. The living French artist he is most impressed by is Toulouse-Lautrec. Starts signing his work P. R. Picasso rather than P. Ruiz Picasso.

1901 - Moves to Madrid. Casagemas who in the meanwhile has returned alone to Paris shoots himself in a café on bd. de Clichy. Picasso returns to Paris. First Picasso show in the gallery of the great Paris dealer Ambroise Vollard, rue Lafitte. Beginning of Blue Period in autumn with "Burial of Casagemas";

1902 - Returns to Barcelona, lives with his family. Sees great El Greco retrospective at Prado. First show at Berthe Weill gallery in Paris. October: Picasso's third trip to Paris. Moves in with poet Max Jacob on the bd. Voltaire.

1903 – Copies Puvis de Chavannes mural in Pantheon. Death of Gauguin. Picasso refers to him in several Blue Period paintings.

1904 - Moves to "Bateau Lavoir" studios, place Ravignan in Montmartre. End of Blue Period. Meets Fernande Olivier. Travels to Montauban where he probably visits Ingres museum. Important Cézanne and Puvis exhibitions at the salon d'automne in Grand Palais.

1905 - Beginning of Rose Period. 45 Van Gogh paintings at salon d'automne. Manet retrospective at Salon d'Automne. Discovers Ingres' Turkish Bath and Portrait of M. Bertin. Meets poet Guillaume Apollinaire and collectors Gertrude and Leo Stein at whose house he meets Henri Matisse and sees their Renoir and Cézanne collection.

1906 – Discovers Iberian sculpture in Louvre and also archaic Kouros. Studies Gauguin's in Gustave Fayet collection. Beginning of primitive, archaic style also influenced by Cézanne's Bathers. Gertrude Stein portrait influenced by Ingres' M. Bertin.

1907 - Manet's Olympia hung next to Ingres' Great Odalisque in Louvre. Discovers African and South Pacific art at musée du Trocadéro. Paints Demoiselles d'Avignon his first radical break with classic figurative art. Beginning of so-called African period. Meets two enterprising German art dealers, Wilhelm Uhde and Daniel Kahnweiler who will support him through the Cubist period. Meets the Fauve painters André Derain and Georges Braque. Great Cézanne retrospective at the Salon d'Automne.

1908 - Transition from "African" painting to increasingly geometric pre-cubist compositions. Deepening friendship and artistic collaboration between Picasso and Braque. Famous banquet in Picasso's studio in honour of naïve painter Henri Rousseau whose Portrait of a Woman Picasso has just bought.

1909 - Critic Louis Vauxcelles coins the word "cubism" at Salon d'Automne. Birth of Analytic Cubism in work of Picasso and Braque. Picasso moves to more comfortable lodgings on bd de Clichy.

1910 - First Cubist shows at Salons des Indépendants and d'Automne with no works however by Picasso or Braque.

1911 - Affair with Eva Guël and Marcelle Humbert. Meets Spanish painter and convert to Cubism, Juan Gris. Even bigger Cubist shows at the salons still without Picasso or Braque. 1912 - Beginning of collage and the "papiers collés" leading to "Synthetic Cubism". Leaves Montmartre for the Left Bank.

1914 - Return of colour in the paintings, sometimes called "Rococo Cubism".

1917 - In Rome to work on sets and costumes of Diaghilev's new ballet Parade. Meets ballerina Olga Koklova. Visits Naples, Pompeii and Florence - first confrontation with ancient Roman painting and great masters of the Italian Renaissance.

1918 - Marries Olga and moves to rue de la Boétie in fashionable 8th arr. His portraits of her recall Ingres. Beginning of Picasso's neoclassical style.

1919 - Greatly affected by Renoir's death.

1926 - Important retrospective at Paul Rosenberg gallery in Paris.

1927 - Meets 17-year old Marie-Thérèse Walter.

1929 - Paints Nude in Armchair, most aggressive portrait of Olga partly inspired by Ingres; Madame Moitessier (national Gallery, London).

1930 - Beginning of Metamorphoses etchings inspired by Rembrandt.

1932 - First oil portraits of Marie-Thérèse. Major retrospective at George Petit gallery in Paris (236 works). Manet hundredth anniversary retrospective at Orangerie.

1936 - Outbreak of civil war in Spain. Meets Yugoslav photographer Dora Maar.

1937 - Etches The Dream and Lie of Franco. Invited by Spanish government to paint mural for Spanish pavilion for the Paris World's Fair. German planes bomb Guernica in the Basque country. Picasso paints Guernica in 11 days.

1938 – Third visit to Ingres museum in Montauban. Paints a series of self portraits in homage to Van Gogh.

1939 – Paints sheep's heads inspired by Goya still life in Louvre. Macabre theme reflects beginning of WWII.

1940 - Germans enter Paris. Picasso invited to go to America, refuses to leave France.

1943 - Meets young painter Françoise Gillot.

1944 - Paris is liberated in August. Picasso joins the Communist party. Great Picasso show at the Salon d'Automne,

his first recognition by the French authorities.

1951 - Paints Massacre in Korea, inspired by Goya's execution in Tres de Mayo.

1953 - First meeting with Jacqueline Roque in Perpignan. Françoise leaves him.

1954 - Death of Matisse. Picasso deeply affected. Begins series on Delacroix's Women of Algiers.

1957 - Paints 40 versions of Velasquez's Las Meninas.

1958 - Buys 14c château de Vauvenargues near Aix in Cézanne country.

1959 - At Vauvenargues paints variations on Manet's Dejeuner sur l'Herbe.

1961 - Marries Jacqueline in Vallauris.

1962 – Sequence of pictures showing the combined influence of David's Sabines (Louvre), and Poussin's Rape of the Sabine Women (Louvre) and Massacre of the Innocents (Chantilly).

1964 – Several paintings inspired by Manet's Olympia.

1965 – Painting inspired by Rembrandt's Woman Bathing (National gallery London). Ulcer operation at the American hospital in Neuilly.

1966 – Series of musketeer - toreador figures recall 17c Spanish and Dutch painting.

1967 – Paintings of couples recall Rembrandt's Self portrait with Saskia (Dresden).

1968 - Death of his Catalan friend and secretary Jaime Sabartes. Picasso donates Meninas series to Barcelona museum in his memory.

1969 – Rembrandt tercentenary. Many paintings with Rembradtesque themes and references. Painting inspired by Velasquez's portrait of dwarf Sebastian de Mora (Prado).

1971 – For the first time a number of Picasso's works from French national collections hang with the old masters in the great gallery of the Louvre.

1973

- April 8, death of Pablo Picasso at Mougins.