

Cubism

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

abstract art

distortions

representational

art critic

invented

Cubism was developed in Paris during the first two decades of the twentieth century, chiefly led by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. They took cues from the Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne who painted with a flat, abstract approach – rendering geometric shapes: sphere, cone, and cylinder. Picasso and Braque pursued this approach until they began producing paintings that pictured the world in ways that it had never been seen before, presenting complex, multiple views of an object. An _____ who saw their early painting in an exhibit said the paintings reduced everything to “geometric outlines, to cubes.” So, this style was called “cubism.” Many artists adopted this new style, mixing surface pattern and spatial ambiguities.

One of the first paintings in this new style was *les Femmes d'Alger* (1907) by Picasso. He included angular _____ of classical figures and rendered three others as distorted, barbaric and primitive, challenging the classical conception of beauty. The



Cubism

painting was not accepted at first, but it turned out to be influential for many years. Picasso was said to have _____ Cubism with this painting.

Georges Braque's painting, *Man with a Guitar* (c. 1911), is another early Cubism painting. Braque demonstrated how an image could be reduce to a form of abstraction never previously imagined. The appearance of the subject is represented as interlinking flat planes painted with muted colors.



Nevertheless, Braque provides clues for the viewer's orientation. Elements of a guitar emerge and a strong diagonal line indicates an arm. Conversely, parallel diagonal brushstrokes obscure the features of the guitarist's head.

Braque and Picasso worked together, working out the foundations of Cubism.

The first phase was called Analytic Cubism; the second phase which included elements of collage was called Synthetic Cubism, lasting until about 1914.

Picasso is given most of the credit as one of the main progenitors of _____, an eventual outcome of Cubism, which pointed the way, through the use of flat planes and abandoning perspective, to Abstract Expressionism.

Picasso continuously reinvented his style of painting, producing both _____ and Cubist images, and incorporating surrealist ideas into his work. He continued to produce art until 1971. Braque collaborated with Picasso until his enlistment in the French army during WWI. He was injured, temporarily losing his sight, then continued to paint in the Cubist style until the 1960s.