

Picasso Self Portraits

Art in the Cubist Style

(Webelos and younger) Minimal adult support

Supplies: art paper, 2 art mediums (paint, chalk, colored pencils, markers, etc)

The artist Picasso became one of the most famous and prolific artists of the 20th century and is well known for founding the Cubist Movement. In Cubism, the artist “breaks up” his subjects and objects they wish to portray, and re-arranges the pieces to create their art. Picasso’s Cubism is a very different way of looking at the world around us, but who’s to say what is real or true or not? Picasso said that he painted from memory and observations. After you see his work, you might have some real questions about these memories and observations!

Google “Picasso portraits cubism”. We find here an astonishing collection of astonishing portraits! Take note of the colors, shapes, lines, and overall structures of the faces he has painted.

In this activity, we will create a self-portrait (a picture of yourself) in the Cubist style! It will be unlike any other we have ever created! Using 2 different mediums (for example, paint, chalk, colored pencils, markers, or watercolors) create 2 portraits of yourself, one in each medium. (Face only!) Feel free to add lines, shapes, vibrant colors, or any other thing you fancy!

When the portraits are finished and have dried, or “set”, we will cut both portraits in half, the long way. Now for the fun part. Take the left side of one portrait, and the right side of the other. You may simply combine them to make your finished piece, (the pieces do not need to match or be level) or you may cut them into smaller pieces and arrange them any way you like. (If you are confused, take another look at the Picasso portraits on Google!) Voila! Your very own Picasso portrait!

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