



Pablo Picasso

1881-1973

Mask

Cut sheet metal band, curved and painted / 1961

Dimensions : 19 x 13,5 cm

Dimensions : 7.48 x 5.12 inch

Biography

Picasso was born in October 1881 in Malaga. He began working with his father who taught him drawing and painting.

In 1900, Picasso moved to Paris where he represented Spain during the Universal Exhibition. He found in the French capital an inspiring environment. The death of his friend Casagemas was a violent artistic rupture and engaged him on his melancholic blue period (1901-1904). Looking for a language breaking with the academic realism, Picasso developed a style with a new plastic language.

In 1904, the artist was living in the Bateau-Lavoir and met Fernande Olivier, opening the way to his pink period (1904-1906). Lines and drawing dominated his works where we find masks, circus and zoo elements. These years were marked by his meeting with Gertrude and Leo Stein and the making of one of his most famous painting: " Les Demoiselles d'Avignon ".

Picasso initiated Cubism with Georges Braque in 1907. The movement consisted in breaking down the image in numerous facets, destroying the traditional representation of reality. During this period, he developed the technique of collage. Picasso added unusual materials in his works like in " La Nature morte à la chaise cannée " in 1912, known as the first collage in the history of painting.

1925 was a new aesthetic break in Picasso's art, influenced by Surrealism and contemporary poetry. The topic of the Minotaur emerged in 1933 and was used in engraving and collage.

He was appointed museum director of the Prado in 1936 while the Spanish civil war began. " Guernica " mixed the themes of violence linked to the conflict and the childish drawings of torero Picasso was making for his daughter Maya.

Concerning sculpture, the end of his career was dedicated to works on sheet and painted metal cuts as "The Chair", "The Opened arms woman" or the large sculpture offered to the city of Chicago in 1967. These works question the creative process in the transition between paper models and metal sheets. Like a drawing cut with scissors, this mask is a synthesis between drawing, painting and sculpture.

Bibliography

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