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Paul Cezanne (1839-1906)

1001 Words

In every age, the styles of art have been changed. But who makes the change from style to another style? Making something change is not easy, especially something that everyone does the same thing and you want to change it. Many times someone who wants to change has not been accepted and failed later. However, there are many people who change the world in different ways and one of them is Paul Cezanne (1839-1906), the French painter who drew the paintings which differ from Impressionism and lead to the new style of art that we called "Cubism". Paul Cezanne changed the world of art and be an inspiration to other artists in the early of 20<sup>th</sup> century, including developing style of paintings by his technique and idea.

Paul Cezanne was born on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1839 in Aix-en-Provence, France. His style of paintings was using colors and brushing little by little. He preferred using juxtaposition of warm color and cool color to using a tone of color just only one. Thus, it made his paintings complex and more dimensions.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, He placed importance on structure and form besides using colors for showing depth of his paintings. His technique was different from impressionism which was a style of art in that age and developed a style of paintings which had more structure and shape and was well-known later. Furthermore, He was an inspiration to many artists such as Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso who were well-known for Cubism painters and drew

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Paul Cezanne." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 10 Sep. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_C%C3%A9zanne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_C%C3%A9zanne)>

famous paintings. Their paintings conveyed a variety of emotions and were not realistic. Their styles of paintings were the opposite of Impressionism totally.

One of his paintings that made him famous was “The Card Players”. This painting was sold for \$250 million, the most expensive art works in the world.<sup>2</sup> This painting was painted in about 1890-1892.<sup>3</sup> His painting expressed about powerful and solemn in the same time. It had using contrast in color and emphasizing in form. Thus, it made his painting outstanding and noticeable. This painting was not only enchanted but also lively. When people saw this painting, they felt they were looking three people were playing cards. From this painting, Paul Cezanne was famous and people were interested in him more than past. People would have a question that why this painting had a very high cost and why Qatar wanted to buy it. It made people wanted to know about him and his paintings including his technique.

Another well-known painting of Paul Cezanne’s was “The Bathers”. This painting was painted in about 1894-1905.<sup>4</sup> There was one of a series of “Bather”. Even though each painting was not same, Paul Cezanne tried to express his feeling in every painting in the same way. This painting composed of naked people, trees, water, earth and sky. All elements related nature. He wanted to show the way of life with nature and reflected society in the current lifestyle that emphasized comfort by using man-made things. Furthermore, this painting showed about living together and using elements of nature for living. In this series, Paul Cezanne did not use bright

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<sup>2</sup> Alexandra Peers. “For \$250 Million, Qatar Buys One of Cézanne’s *The Card Players*, the Priciest-Ever Painting.” *Vanityfair*. 11 Sep. 2012. <<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2012/02/qatar-buys-cezanne-card-players-201202>>

<sup>3</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Art Club contributors. “The Card Players, 1890-92 by Paul Cezanne.” *1<sup>st</sup> Art Club*. 14 Sep 2012. <<http://www.1artclub.com/the-card-players-1890-92-by-paul-cezanne/>>

<sup>4</sup> The National Gallery contributors. “Bathers (Les Grandes Baigneuses)” *The National Gallery*. 14 Sep 2012. <<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/paul-cezanne-bathers-les-grandes-baigneuses>>

color for painting but he used only natural colors such as green, blue, brown for displaying naturalness as possible. Most people when they saw this painting, they would feel natural and comfortable and knew the way of life in the past.

Another painting of Paul Cezanne's which was said that linked between Impressionism and Cubism was "Rideau, Cruchon et Compotier". This painting was one of the most expensive paintings in the world. This painting can convey many emotions. Paul Cezanne drew this painting realistically.<sup>5</sup> He used grey color for background and used bright colors, for instance, red and orange color for fruits to make fruit outstanding. It showed contrast between bright and dark emotions but they can live together like people. People were good and bad. This painting can show being of society and taught people that you want to be a good or bad person. Many fruits in this painting referred to good people and background in this painting referred to bad people. People can see good people easier than bad people. When people saw at this painting, they felt that they wanted to look at fruits more than background because they felt lively and vivacious.

Most of his paintings were about natural and objects. There were a few paintings which was portrait because Paul Cezanne did not like when his model was moving while he was painting.<sup>6</sup> Thus, He preferred motionless painting like landscape or scenery to portrait painting and all his famous paintings were motionless. Many people might think that he did not learn about impressionism, but actually he learnt this style at the first. Nevertheless, his impressionism's paintings were not popular.

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<sup>5</sup> Krishna. "Paul Cezanne: Rideau, Cruchon et Compotier" *Dollars Tips free stuff: free images*. 15 Sep 2012. <<http://dollarstips.com/freebies/paul-cezanne-rideau-cruchon-et-compotier/>>

<sup>6</sup>Dr. Barnaby Wright. "Cezanne's Card Players." *The Courtauld Gallery*. 15 Sep 2012. <<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/vodcasts/2010/cezanne/index.shtml>>

Thus, he changed his style of painting by using colors, forms, structures and it made him and his style famous later.

As you can see that his change of style of drawing made him famous in his age. But actually, his paintings just were well-known after he died. In his life, he had to handle with failure again and again because of his style of painting. Since his paintings were not accepted from other people and other artists at that time. After his death, people were interested in his paintings and imitated his style and then his style was famous and changed the style of painting from impressionism which emphasized using colors for relaying the scenery that artist painted to cubism which emphasized structures and forms of picture for showing artists' thought.<sup>7</sup> It changed people not only a style of drawing but also thought because it was just not painting the landscape but artists had to think and painted what they wanted to show to other people by colors and structures. This totally made his style extensively and changed the world of art and artists' thought including people's thought and be an inspiration to artists in the early of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>7</sup> Wisegeek contributors. "What is Impressionism?" *Wisegeek*. 15 Sep 2012  
<<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-impressionism.htm>>