

5504640458

Kitipong Sae-tang

Pablo Picasso

1237 words

Since the origin of Arts, artists traditionally painted or built their art works according to nature, model, or human's perspective.<sup>1</sup> However, nowadays, there are also lots of sculptures and pictures that are different from human's perspective. What is the origin of these art forms? Who initiated it? The answer lies in first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in Paris. Pablo Picasso, together with Georges Braque, developed new style of painting called "Cubism", which later influenced in many other fields of Art.<sup>2</sup> They have the most substantial role in breaking the rule that has stemmed in Arts since its origin. This abstractive style of drawing, Cubism, can be called one of the most important rebellious evolutions in history of Arts.

If one takes a look at paintings or sculptures before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he will realize that there is a tradition in imitating the real and human's perspective.<sup>3</sup> For example, "Mona Lisa", the most famous picture in Renaissance age, is a portrait of a real woman which is the result from the painter's profound studies and researches on human's

---

<sup>1</sup> Rewald, Sabine. "Cubism." *In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. 11 Sep. 2012.

< [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cube/hd\\_cube.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cube/hd_cube.htm) >

<sup>2</sup> Wolf, Justin. "Cubism." *The Art History*. 11 Sep. 2012.

< <http://www.theartstory.org/movement-cubism.htm> >

<sup>3</sup> Artyfactory contributors. "Cubism." *Arty Factory*. 11 Sep. 2012.

< [http://www.artfactory.com/art\\_appreciation/art\\_movements/cubism.htm](http://www.artfactory.com/art_appreciation/art_movements/cubism.htm) >

anatomy and facial details.<sup>4</sup> This example illustrates that painters, in the old age, was constrained to the tradition.

At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, everything in this world was changing very quickly. From that age, human's lifestyle has been changed into a more modern one by radical inventions such as photograph, telephone, and automobile.<sup>5</sup> These inventions have broadened the capability of human; everyone can capture a scene that he sees and can bury it in a paper by photography. Besides technology, human also invented a radical style of art that has broadened the technique of painting. In that age, a Spanish painter was inspired by primitive art which originated in Africa and Asia and style of Paul Cézanne's paintings.<sup>6</sup> With those things combined, the inspired Spanish painter, Pablo Picasso, developed his own groundbreaking style of painting with uncountable number of sketches and researches.

In 1907, Pablo Picasso drew "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon", which symbolizes the first cubist picture that completely denies the tradition of human's painting.<sup>7</sup> Picasso neglected the concept of portraying dept, distance, and gradation of light in canvas which resulted in a picture of five women whose body and face were depicted in geometric shape consisted of numerous facets that express profound meanings. However, the

---

<sup>4</sup> Biography contributors. "Leonardo da Vinci." 2012. *Biography.com* 13 Sep 2012.  
<<http://www.biography.com/people/leonardo-da-vinci-40396>>

<sup>5</sup> Artyfactory contributors. "Cubism." *Arty Factory*. 11 Sep. 2012.  
< [http://www.artifactory.com/art\\_appreciation/art\\_movements/cubism.htm](http://www.artifactory.com/art_appreciation/art_movements/cubism.htm)>

<sup>6</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.81, 82, and 93.

<sup>7</sup> Voorhies, James. "Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)." *In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. 11 Sep. 2012.  
<[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pica/hd\\_pica.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pica/hd_pica.htm)>

reaction to “Les Demoiselles d’Avignon” in French was horrible.<sup>8</sup> Almost everyone who saw the picture thought that it was contemptible and hilarious. Even one who had been respecting Picasso marked it as a shame for French art. Moreover, critics, at that time, unstoppably offended his works and even insulted those works that only lunatic can understand.<sup>9</sup> However, Pablo Picasso, in collaboration with Georges Braque who is also deeply inspired by Paul Cézanne, did not cease but continue to paint with this art style despite the negative responds from critics and other artists. The revolutionary style of painting was called Cubism because of the geometrical shape appeared in those pictures. Cubism was, later, analyzed and increasingly accepted in art field. It became more and more influential and eventually spread throughout Europe countries and also the outside world. In 1911, there was a one-man show of Picasso’s work in New York, exhibiting his Cubism in the capital of United States.<sup>10</sup>

History and style of Cubism can be divided into two phases, Analytical Cubism and Synthetical Cubism. Firstly, Cubists rejects depicting a mirage of three-dimensional scenario in two-dimensional canvas and make use of the two-dimensionality instead.<sup>11</sup> Cubists want to create a picture that depicts more than one aspects, from the sides, above, and below without having dept and distance that can depict only one point of view in his two-dimensional canvas. These ideas result in geometric, abstractive paintings that neglect size, proportion, and gradation of light of the real which never exist in human’s

---

<sup>8</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.82.

<sup>9</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.104.

<sup>10</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.106.

<sup>11</sup> Artyfactory contributors. “Cubism.” *Arty Factory*. 11 Sep. 2012.

< [http://www.artfactory.com/art\\_appreciation/art\\_movements/cubism.htm](http://www.artfactory.com/art_appreciation/art_movements/cubism.htm)>

painting before.<sup>12</sup> In 1922, Cubism started to move on to its latter phase, called Synthetic Cubism.<sup>13</sup> Picasso developed another unprecedented technique of painting, called collage. Collage is a technique of pasting other materials such as patterned paper and texture onto the painting to develop the creativity into a more simplified, diversified and lively way of painting by using real object which gives small trait of the reality to the picture. Cubism, again, was further advanced into the realm that no one ever walked to in the history of Art.

Cubism has also paved the way for artists to think outside what was traditionally done. In Cubism, artist's creativity can exceed what we can only see. Therefore, Cubist style has been accepted as the beginning of many other abstractive art styles, such as Dadaism, Constructivism, Neo-plasticism and Abstract Expressionism.<sup>14</sup> These styles created numerous outputs that express their meanings without sketching the real scenarios or painting what we usually observe but through abstract which resembles Cubist style of painting. If Picasso and Braque never developed Cubism, artists might still portray their work according to the tradition style of using only an image that exists in the reality.

What human can learn from Picasso is not only existed in his works but also his way of thinking. He dare refuse the tradition that had lingered in the society for many years and walked on the path that he believed. In spite of the negative respond from his surroundings, he stubbornly carried on what he was doing. Nevertheless, in the end, his courage in daring to do what others do not, his creativity which unchained him from the

---

<sup>12</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.87.

<sup>13</sup> Greenfeld, Howard. *Pablo Picasso An Introduction*. 1971. p.102.

<sup>14</sup> Wolf, Justin. "Cubism." *The Art History*. 11 Sep. 2012.

<<http://www.theartstory.org/movement-cubism.htm>>

tradition and his stubbornness have resulted a noble achievement. Nowadays, there is no one insulting his works but, on contrary, people respect him as one of the most epic, important artists in Art history.

From the beginning to Renaissance age, artists had been coloring their canvas or carving their material into works which is only derived from what we witness. However, Pablo Picasso denied the concept of imitating reality and developed his own concept, Cubism. Even though everyone was firstly laughing at him, he proceeded in what he believed, which makes his style of working praiseworthy and admirable. This rebellious art style has adjusted the way that human had traditionally done for a long time. Many artists were influenced by Cubism and developed new styles of art which has their basis on the concept of Cubism. Picasso's deeds has engraved his name in the history of Art as one of the most important person who has broadened the way human express meanings or their emotions into a canvas or a sculpture from only basing on reality into something that does not exist in reality but beyond.