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Pablo Picasso

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Art is the various ranges of human activities and the product of those activities. It includes 5 fields, which are sculpture, painting, photography, printmaking and other visual media.¹ People believe that art can be found everywhere, thus its definition seems to be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Moreover, the majority of people have perception that art should be aesthetic or elegant. From Picasso's point of view, he believed that art is the reflection of truth regardless of its beauty and his works really prove what he believes. His three paintings that can be best described are La Vie, Three Musicians and Guernica.

During the 20th century, there are lots of artists that are well known until now. But if we talk about the artist of this century, who is also widely recognized as the greatest contemporary artist, everybody can come up with the name of Pablo Picasso. He is a Spanish painter, sculptor and print maker. Picasso was a very talented from his childhood. His parents found that he could draw before he could talk. He has developed so many paintings with a wide range of styles and themes. Picasso passed through many eras, his techniques changed across the times.²

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Art." *Wikipedia, The Free encyclopedia*. 26 Feb 2012.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art>>

² Howard Greenfeld. Pablo Picasso An Introduction. 1971. p.12-14.

The blue period is the first period that Picasso started his works. The colors that he took are the tones of blue and blue-green, which express the poverty and depression. The blue period ends with the beginning of the rose period. Rose style is the using of brighter color usually in pink. His tasks during this age mostly refer to the optimistic in the mood. African-influenced Period follows which the African artifacts inspired.³ After this period Pablo Picasso and his friend, Georges Braque invented the modern art called Cubism. Cubism is an abstract art and it is mainly the idea using the geometric shapes to represent the works, the paintings are totally contrast to the Renaissance approach of art, which are aesthetics and elegant. The cubism represents the 2 dimensions. The last period is the surrealism, Picasso completed his tasks in a neoclassical style. Surrealist technique based on the creative imagination objects, which the unconscious interprets as figures.⁴

To begin with the Picasso's blue period, one of the most famous painting is La Vie. La Vie is the word in French, which means life. It is a picture of a couple and an old woman who is carrying a baby in her arms. The canvas appears to deal with sorrow, love and loneliness that caused by the using of the blue tones. The painting La Vie was composed after the suicide of Picasso's best friend, Carlos Casagemas. However there is no completely explanation of it but the majority of art critics believe that a couple is Picasso's best friend and his lover. Furthermore, the woman later became the mother, which this figure represents her as an old woman holding a baby. This masterpiece gives

³ Barcelona Spain Blog. "The works of Picasso." 12 Jan.2012. < <http://www.barcelona-budget.net/picasso-periods.html>>

⁴ Artyfactory. "Cubism." 24 Mar. 2012.<<http://www.barcelona-budget.net/picasso-periods.html>>

us the reflection that makes us realize the truth. The cycle of life, which is birth, youth and age, was represented through this painting.⁵

In addition the painting named Three Musician can be one of the best example that shows us art reveals the truth. It was created during the cubism period. If we look at this painting, we might say that it is just a photo of three musicians that was composed of the linear lines and lots of geometric pieces. They are playing the song with different roles. The Pierrot is placed on the left side playing saxophone. Harlequin is the guitar player in the middle and the monk holds music notes on the right hands side. Moreover we can guess it seems to be a pleasant event through the energetic brighten coloring. In fact, the truth is all characters that are placed in this figure represent Picasso and his poet friends. Pierrot and monk are just the metaphors for the artists.⁶ Picasso doesn't considered of the philosophy of beauty in his works, he painted his tasks as he thinks them, not as he sees them. Thus it leads to the irregular shapes in this masterpiece that shows what is going on in his real life.

Picasso composed a bunch of paintings through his lifetime. Those painting are all accepted in the modern art society. But the most well known figure that everyone can recognize is Guernica since it is the most powerful political statement painted. Guernica is based on a real story which related to bombing of the Basque town of Guernica by the army of Hitler with in the single day. Picasso felt a very sensitive emotional impact of this massacre because he had lots of memories in Spain. The painting does not show the

⁵ Alexandra. "The life the blue period." 8 Sep. 2010. <<http://youthvoices.net/discussion/life-blue-period-mystery-la-vie>>

⁶ Nathan Beaver. "Pablo Picasso's three Musician." 21 May 2008.<<http://voices.yahoo.com/pablo-picassos-three-musicians-1470231.html?cat=2>>

exact event; rather, Picasso expressed his harsh feeling by using imaginary symbols to reflect the this event. Guernica was created in the surrealist style with a completely darkness background. Blue, black and white create an air of mystery. In addition those colors represent insecurities and hopelessness.⁷

The majority of people believe that Guernica is just the painting of the horror of the bombing. In fact, Guernica did provide many symbolic elements that make us realize the realistic world. The using of symbolism illustrates the intense meaning. If we take a deep look in this object, the horse at the center which is contorted into a painful represents the people of Guernica. The bull stands for the spirit of Spain. The light bulb suggests Hitler is curiously looking the destruction of Guernica. The broken human image reflects the pain of the innocent people. The weapon on the broken represents people's defense, which is completely failed. In the broad view, the contorted figures reflecting chaos and bewilderment.⁸

All in all, Art sometimes can be perceived only an art as per general thinking. However, if you think more creatively, art is really a refection of truth. Picasso put many puzzles through all of his works. Every enigma leads to the way to seek the realistic world. He used his artistic talented to give universal expression to his sentiments. Even though, he never committed to a specific explanation on his painting, but Picasso believes that his audiences have the rights to give their own description on his paintings. Due to

⁷ Angie Holliday. "Guernica." 21 Apr. 2001. <<http://personal.centenary.edu/~eholland/Guernica.html>>

⁸ Artists Rights Society. "Pablo Picasso." 15 Jun. 2001.
<<http://www.mcs.csueastbay.edu/~malek/Artfolder/Pablo.html>>

these three paintings, it can be approved that art is the reflection of truth regardless of its beauty.