

Student number: 5504641613

Name: Sireethon Worawatwanitch

Topic: Paul Cezanne

Word count: 1009 words

Paul Cezanne, the French post-impressionist artist, was born in Aix-en-Provence. He was born in a wealthy family; his father was the owner of the only bank in the city. Cezanne had two close friends in his youth one of them was Emile Zola who was also interested in art and literature. After he finished school he was sent to study laws by the requirement of his father however, he did not like it. Finally, after two years of studying laws, his father allowed him to go to Paris, where, in that time, man can learn arts and become an artist. His life was divided into four periods; dark period, impressionist period, mature period and final period.¹ During each period, the painting style was varied due to what he had experienced in those periods. However, the interesting things are the reasons why Paul Cezanne became famous almost in the last period of his life despite many years in the painting field.

This is because his paintings were rejected to be exhibited at the Salon des Refuses in Paris and he did not be accepted as an impressionist painter among the other impressionist painters. Furthermore it is because of his habits. Finally he was successful from his solo painting exhibition, got respect from many famous artists and was claimed to be the father of modern art.²

First of all, his paintings were rejected to be exhibited at the Salon des Refuses of the Acedemie des Beaux-Arts. This period was called dark period, most of his paintings were painted in dark color with heavy brush stroke and thick layer which

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Paul Cézanne." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 26 Jan. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_C%C3%A9zanne >

² Bio.truestory contributors. "Paul Cézanne biography." *biography.com*. 31 Jan. 2013. <<http://www.biography.com/people/paul-cezanne-9542036>>

was the result of his emotion at that time.³ The shade of dark colors represented that he was regret, shy, rude, angry and depressed. However, Cezanne continued to send his paintings to the Salon jury every year for almost ten years but got the same result, rejected. So, his early paintings had not been shown in public yet.

Second, he did not be accepted as an impressionist painter among the other impressionist painters, although he started to paint in brighter tone and more impressionism style after he had met Camille Pissarro, who changed his painting style.⁴ By the year 1874, he exhibited some of his paintings in the first impressionist show. Unfortunately, he got a lot of critics and rejections from others as a feedback. His works were always considered to be the revolution of art although he was influenced a lot of impressionism by Pissarro; his paintings still could not be defined the exact style. In 1897, the third impressionist exhibition, he showed his painting again but instead of admirations and compliments, he got even more critics and was banned to show up again his work in the impressionist exhibition.

Also because of his own habits; irascible, clumsily, shy and lack of patient, that made him even more independent. As we can see in his dark period that although his painting style was influenced by other impressionists in the Salon but his relationship among those guys did not went well. Many feelings and behaviors of him were shown in his early paintings. Moreover it is because of what he had faced in the past such as the pressure of his father and the depression of many failures that made him became more isolated. In the others' views, Cezanne was quite a strange man as he saw the world deeper than the others. However, nothing would be more pitiful than he was thought to be a stranger from his wife and son in the last period of his life. In addition,

³ Artble provider. "Paul Cézanne." *artble.com* 30 Jan. 2013
<http://www.artble.com/artists/paul_cezanne>

⁴ Moodbook contributors. "Paul Cézanne Life and Work." *Art Encyclopedia*. 2 Feb. 2013.
<<http://www.moodbook.com/history/postimpressionism/paul-cezanne-life-and-work.html>>

it was clear that he preferred independent even in the year of 1895 which he had a chance to move to Paris and became famous but he chose to live in countryside.

The most important reason that made him become famous must be the success of his solo painting exhibition by the famous dealer, Ambroise Vollard. Although he had some paintings showed in some salon before 1890, he still was an unknown painter. Even if there was one who interested in his work, that guy would not know if the painter still alive or not. At that time he was known only by some impressionist colleagues. After the solo exhibition, people started to accept that he was a genius. In 1897 Vollard bought all of his paintings in the studio in Fontainebleau.⁵ From now, the young artists who appreciated in his works started to come to Aix, where he lived, to observed him and hoped to get some advices from him.⁶ In 1900 his works were exhibited through Europe. After his death, there were also the exhibitions in 1906 and 1907 for his retrospective.

Last thing, Cezanne was claimed to be the father of modern art as his style influenced many types of arts such as Cubism, Expressionism and Symbolism. Furthermore, his art influenced Cubism as he tried to cut down the complexity of nature and make it simple by using geometric shapes and this led to the development of Cubism. The development of expressionism came from his early paintings that were painted in dark tone showing out his feeling at that moment. Nonetheless he did not directly influence Symbolism art; the symbolists borrowed only his decorative elements to use in Symbolism.⁷

⁵ Theartgallery provider. "Paul Cézanne." *French post-impressionist* 29 Jan. 2013
<<http://www.theartgallery.com.au/cezanne.html> >

⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica, 1994 and Encarta 1999 contributors. . "Paul Cézanne 1839-1906."
Impressionism Gallery 1 Feb. 2013

<<http://www.mcs.csueastbay.edu/~malek/Impression/Cezanne.html>>

⁷ Richard Verdi. *Cézanne*. 1992. P.206-209.

In conclusion, although Paul Cezanne became famous, he was just only a man.⁸ Almost his entire life, he was just an unknown painter facing many failures, depression and bad experiences. Life is so complicated not only for him but for all of us, sometimes it goes really well but sometimes it is so struggle, the thing is can one walk through the tough time during one's life. However, Paul Cezanne did not left just only the influence and revolution to art but also the most admirable and respectful thing of him that is he never abandoned his endeavor and love in painting although he faced many critics, failures and rejections and at last his endeavor was achieved, he became a famous painter and was respected by the after generations.

⁸ John Sheridan contributor. "Paul Cézanne: PITY POOR PAUL CÉZANNE." *WetCanvas*, 1 Feb. 2013 <http://www.wetcanvas.com/Museum/Artists/c/Paul_Cezanne/Contrib/Pity_Cezanne/index.html>