



**PAINT LIKE  
GEORGES BRAQUE**

Read the following slides and then have a go yourself at painting in the style of this very famous artist.

# Georges Braque

- Georges Braque (1882 –1963) was a 20th-century French painter and collagist. He was also a printmaker and sculptor. He was most well known for being the founder of Cubism alongside the famous artist Pablo Picasso.
- Braque's work throughout his life focused on still life and viewing objects from various perspectives through colour, line and texture. He invented paper collage techniques along with Picasso in 1912.
- Braque explored collage technique one-step further by gluing cut-up advertisements into his canvases. Braque stencilled letters onto paintings, blended pigments with sand and copied wood grain to achieve great levels of dimension in his paintings.

**Cubism** - a style of art which aims to show all of the possible viewpoints of a person or an object all at once.

**Paper Collage** - a work of art that is made by attaching pieces of paper to a flat surface.



# Biography

- His father had a decorative painting business and Braque's interest in texture and tactility developed while working with his father as a decorator.
- Braque moved to Paris at the age of seventeen in 1899. He gave up work as a decorator to pursue painting fulltime from 1902-1905. He started painting in the style of Fauvist artists (the group of artists who used strong and bright colours). He contributed his colourful Fauvist paintings to his first exhibition in 1906.
- He was extremely affected by his visit to Pablo Picasso's studio in 1907. Soon these two artists forged an intimate friendship and artistic companionship. There was a drastic change in Braque's paintings which can be attributed to Picasso.
- Braque's first post-war solo show took place in 1919. Braque is remembered as a precursor of Cubism.



# George Braque's paintings

- George Braque famous paintings are based on the Cubist style. It is called Cubism because the items represented in the artworks look like they are made out of cubes and other geometrical shapes.
- Though Braque worked on different subjects he is still remembered for his still life master pieces. He often immersed figures within still life which becomes part of the cubes and the objects.
- Braque used limited palette using different shades of brown, grey, greens and yellow ochre mainly. The colours sit next to each other without bright contrasts of shades and tones.
- There is a rich texture in all his art works He uses paper collage techniques along with paint which gives depth and 3D effect in his paintings.





- Braque depicted both bottles and fishes throughout his entire painting career and these objects stand as markers to differentiate his various styles.
- In this painting there is a bottle and fishes on a plate, laid on a table with a drawer. Each object has been dramatically fragmented into different shapes and forms to get a grid-like structure .
- The shapes are made through vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines. The use of earth tone palette (browns and greys) gives this painting a subtle effect and all the colours are in harmony.



Bottle and Fishes, 1910-1912

- The basic subject in this painting is visible towards the top in the feminine mouth and eye, as well as the brown trapezoid shape containing the strings of a guitar. These are the elements which help lead the eye around the painting.
- The viewer can see the brown of the guitar, balanced at the top by the inclusion of a brown rectangle. Similarly the dark area to the right of the painting which shows the shoulder is balanced by the same colour on the left.
- There is a use of text under the brown trapezoid shape which Braque uses in his cubist works. There are horizontal and diagonal lines, intersecting lines as well as some curves to show the figure.



Woman with a Guitar, 1913



- Braque depicted violins more than any other instrument. The violin was associated with both classical and folk music.
- In this painting a single violin is shown from multiple viewpoints, with selected details of the black tailpiece, tuning pegs, and scroll.
- The technique of collage is used using wood grains and paper. This art work uses oil painting, charcoal and collage.



The Violin, 1913



- This is one of those Braque's still life paintings which has no intersecting lines and the objects are more recognisable.
- In this painting of a glass and pears on a table, different perspectives are making objects obscure instead of different intersecting lines and shapes.
- The round edge of the plate encircles all the objects.
- It is an oil painting and the brush strokes highlight the texture of the objects as well as the contrast between different colours

Perspective- In art, it is a system of representing the way that objects appear to get smaller and closer together the farther away they are from the viewer. It gives a three-dimensional feeling to a flat image such as a drawing or a painting.



Glass on a table, 1909-1910

For you to try...  
Painting in the style of Georges Braque



# Task 1: Setting your Still life (objects)- taking a photograph (10 mins)

## Resources needed:

- Tea Mug- 1
- Butter – 1
- Toasts- 2
- Dish cloth- 1
- Small tray-1

## Steps:

1. Start setting your objects in the style of Georges Braque's painting, 'Glass on a table'.
2. Place a tea mug instead of a glass, butter instead of a square box, toast instead of pears and set your dish cloth where there is empty space on the tray.
3. Rearrange objects until you are happy with how they look.
4. Watch this link to learn about still life setting:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo41mT\\_xSqc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo41mT_xSqc)



Glass on a table

## Task 2: Preliminary sketch of your Still life - (20 mins)

### Resources:

- Cardboard sheet- A4
- Sketching pencils ( 2B, 4B) and eraser
- Printed picture of your 'Glass on a table'
- Your still life (your set objects)

### Steps:

1. Working from your still life start drawing put the main shapes on the cardboard sheet. Make sure that your pencil is blunt, so it doesn't go through the cardboard.
2. Start drawing the shape of your tea mug first, then butter, toast and the dish cloth very lightly.
3. Now you need to intentionally deform or re draw the edges of your drawn objects to make these look like the Braque's painting.
4. Draw everything lightly so the mistakes can be corrected easily.
5. Make sure the proportions (size) of the objects are more or less similar to Braque's painting.





# Task 3: Paper Collage (30 mins)

## Resources:

- Your preliminary sketch
- News paper ( without any colour)
- Glue stick

## Steps:

1. Refer to Braque's painting and your still life setting again.
2. Cut the newspaper into rectangles or squares and start sticking these onto your cardboard drawing where you didn't draw anything.
3. This will be inside the tray on the empty spaces.



# Task 4- Starting and completing painting (60 mins)

## Resources:

- Your cardboard drawing with collage
- Charcoal stick or pencil - 1
- Acrylic paints- Raw Sienna, Yellow Ochre, Cobalt Blue, Zinc White
- Acrylic brushes- No 4, 6 round and 4, 6 flat
- Palette and waterpots

## Steps:

### Follow colours from the Braque's painting

1. Outline the edges of the paper collage with charcoal stick.
  2. Mix white in a bit of yellow ochre to get a pale white and with your flat brush start painting the tea mug, then butter box.
  3. Now mix white in brown to get a medium brown and paint in the toast drawing.
  4. Mix blue and yellow to get green, now add white in a bit of green and paint this in the dish cloth.
  5. Now you need to add darker tones in the objects, follow the palette of Braque's painting and add darker tones accordingly.
- Watch this video to learn about flat brush strokes:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ-O56UrljA>



# Review your painting (15 mins)

After completing your painting you need to evaluate the outcomes by considering the following:

- Does your still life resemble Georges Braque's style?
- Is there any paper collage in your painting?
- Is there any text in your painting?
- Do the objects look real or distorted?
- Are there any lines in your painting?
- Are there any earth tones ( brown or grey) in your painting?
- What has worked well / less well?
- What would you differently next time to improve the work?

You have completed the task - Well done!

Please read the next slide for more...



# Exploring Georges Braque's theme further

If you have enjoyed working in the style of Georges Braque, you can now work on the following subjects and mediums:

- Working on portraiture through fragmented shapes and forms
- Working on landscapes using a variety of shapes like trapezium, parallelogram, rhombus etc
- Using magazine cuttings, leaflets and CD covers in collage
- Exploring more sturdy materials like wood or metal in collage

