

# *Picasso as a Symbolist*

By

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# *Symbolism*

- Symbolism is not about picking out different objects in a painting and searching for meanings within each piece.
- Instead, symbolism is more about the ideas that the piece represents as a whole.

# *A Family of Saltimbanques*



# *A Family of Saltimbanques*

- Created in 1905
- Symbolism of the alienation of avant-garde (innovative) artists
- The characters have been speculated to be a group portrait of Picasso and his circle\*
- Though each character is composed together as a group, each is mentally isolated. They do not interact with each other.
- This work is derived from Picasso's Blue Period.

• \*<http://www.nga.gov/collection/gallery/20centpa/20centpa-46665.html>

# *A Family of Saltimbanques*

- The group in the painting is a family of circus performers who are considered to be social outcasts.
- These people are performers who provide entertainment to everyday people.
- This painting relates the artist with the circus performer in the sense that artists entertain the general public with their art. Their art is their performance.
- Being entertainment is the artist's concession as they create their art.
- The feeling of being an outcast comes from knowing that many people view their art as solely entertainment.
- Many people from the general public did not take the time to understand the heart of the artworks.

# *Guitar, Sheet Music, and Glass*



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- Created in 1912.
- Papier Colle.
- Different types of paper combined together to create a representation of a guitar.
- The different papers create different visual textures to create the illusion of a guitar.
- The guitar is shown from different angles, creating a feeling of movement and depth.

# *Guitar, Sheet Music, and Glass*

- The idealism of music as an art form is also represented in this collage.
- Music has been a great influence to the symbolist style.

# *Guitar, Sheet Music, and Glass*

- Using paper collage as an art form was a relatively new concept
- This picture has the headline, “LA BATAILLE S’EST ENGAGE.” This translates to, “The battle has begun.”
- This headline was purposefully placed by Picasso to challenge other artists to participate in the new art form.

*A Piece from Picasso's series of  
Absinthe Glasses*



# *A Piece from Picasso's series of Absinthe Glasses*

- Created around 1914.
- This is not created to be a functional glass.
- Instead, it is an abstract representation of Absinthe and its effects.
- The cup's warped surface depicts the distortion of the mind that Absinthe causes.
- It also represents the gamble that one performed while enjoying the poisonous beverage.
- Each of the six glasses that Picasso created are unique and differ from each other in their design.

# *A Piece from Picasso's series of Absinthe Glasses*

- The cups are not only a symbol of the effects of Absinthe, but they are also a depiction of the culture that Picasso knew very well.
- He was very fond of the cultural aspect of a cafe scene and often used elements from a cafe in his art.

# *Lightwriting*



# *Light writing*

- Photographic documentation by Gjon Mili.
- Photography aids Picasso in creating images in the realm of the real world.
- Picasso uses a torch as his medium in creating the imagery.
- The figure that he draws is an abstract representation of a centaur

# *Light Writing*

- The image that is created through light writing was one of the first of its kind.
- The picture represents Picasso's imagination coming to life in a real world setting.
- It is a challenge to other artists as well as inspiration to them.
- Picasso moves to have his art more involved with the real world as he practices new forms of art.