



English

Wonder – Cubism Multiple Perspective

A cubist-style portrait of a man's face, rendered in various shades of blue, green, and purple. The face is composed of geometric shapes and lines, characteristic of the Cubism movement. The background is a dark blue with abstract, swirling patterns.

Cubism

Multiple Perspective

A Portrait in Multiple Perspectives



French photographer, Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, known as Nadar, took these photographs in 1865.

It's called *Autoportrait Tournant* (turning self-portrait) and are of different angles of his head.

This is the first ever photo gif! Click the picture to see the 12-images combined into a gif.

A Portrait in Multiple Perspectives

Usually, people have portraits or photos of their faces taken from the front or to a slight angle – think of the last selfie you took!

But others don't see you face-on all the time – they see you from behind, from the side (profile), from the front, even from above and below.

You could experiment with taking pictures of your head at different angles. Can you make a photo montage of the images?

Try to recreate Nadar's *Autoportrait Tournant* with a multiple perspective picture of a partner. Create your own gif with an online gif creator.



Triple Portraits



Nadar wasn't the first to use multiple perspective portraits. This triple portrait of King Charles I is by the Dutch artist, Anthony van Dyck, 1635.

Triple Portraits



This portrait of Cardinal Richelieu is by the French artist, Philippe de Champaigne, 1642. Do you think he had seen Van Dyck's portrait of Charles I before painting this?

Multiple Perspective Portraits in World Culture and Religion



These are multiple portraits of statues of Erawan from Thai culture, Brahma, from Hindu culture, Janus from Roman culture and a wooden mask from the Baule peoples of Côte d'Ivoire.

Talking Points

- What does a multiple perspective portrait give you that a full face portrait doesn't?

- What are people's personalities like? One dimensional or multi-dimensional?

- Are you the same person at home as you are at school? Are you the same person you were five years ago or will be in five years?

- Do people see you in the same way? Does your best mate see you in the same way as your mum or your dentist?

- Do you see the world in the same way when you're happy as you do when you're sad or upset?

Cubism

Cubism was an art movement invented by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. They were inspired by the work of Cezanne and African tribal masks.

Picasso said, “A head is a matter of eyes, nose, mouth, which can be distributed in any way you like”. So he did!

Cubist images are like fragments of pictures viewed from different points (planes), capturing people and objects from multiple perspectives.

Some cubist images can even look like they're moving - they're almost like modern gifs!

Cubism



You can watch a dramatization of Picasso talking about his cubist method [here](#).

You can learn more about Picasso by reading the [Pablo Picasso Factsheet](#).

Can you find any more cubist pictures by Picasso and more about his cubist method?

View the detail of other cubist artworks using the [Cubism Cards](#).

Can you make your own cubist portrait?

Tips for Drawing Cubist Portraits - Collage

1

Cut out portraits of heads viewed on different planes (viewpoints) from magazines, printed from online images or pictures you have taken of someone's head from different angles.

2

Cut the parts of the face/head up so that you have a range of facial features from different angles and viewpoints.

3

Now put the parts together to make a cubist portrait like the one on the next slide.

Tips for Drawing Cubist Portraits - Tracing

1

Take a photo of your face from two or more different angles and print out the photos.

2

Trace the features of some of the photos you particularly like or just two of the views.

3

Arrange the tracings on a piece of paper (you can cut them up or keep them whole) until you have an image you like.

4

Rub over your traced lines so that they mark the paper below. Go over the lines you're happy with and paint/colour the image with strong colours.

Tips for Drawing Cubist Portraits - Drawing

1

Draw quick portraits of your partner from different angles or points of view.

Draw some of their facial features from different angles.

2

Copy or trace features of the portrait you particularly like onto a new sheet of paper.

3

Look again at the subject (your partner) to improve the features or change them into something more angular and non-realistic.

4

Paint/colour the image with strong colours.

Use colours from other cubist paintings to inspire your colour palette.

Multiple Perspective Novels

Many novels have been published with multiple perspectives.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (1847) is a famous novel that has different narrators telling the story.

The Good Soldier by Ford Madox Ford (1915) is a famous novel where four narrators tell the same events from four different viewpoints. This was the first novel to be written like this.

Novels with multiple narrators include:

- *Wonder* by R J Palacio
- *The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud
- *The Missing Girl* by Norma Fox Mazer
- *Mistik Lake* by Martha Brooks
- *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey
- *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon
- *Spellbook of the Lost and Found* by Moira Fowley-Doyle

There's even an episode of the Simpsons with multiple perspectives called *Trilogy of Error*.



