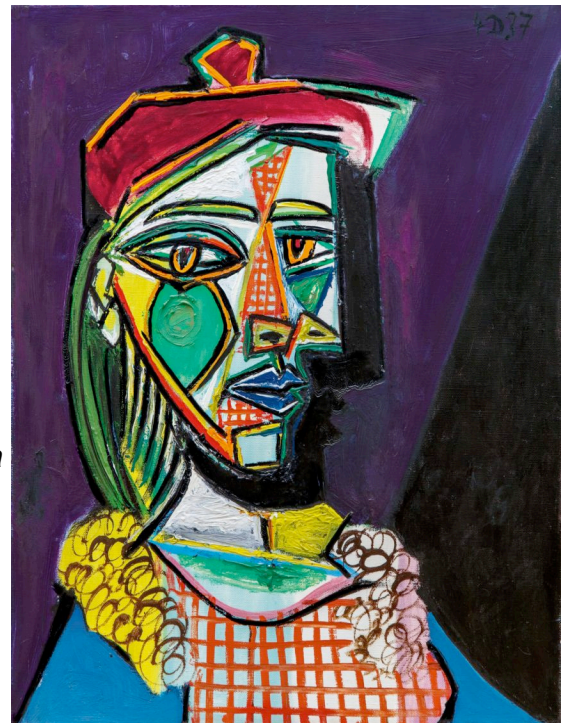


In this lesson we learn how to use **Blind Contour Line Drawing** to make 'Cubist' portraits in the style of **Pablo Picasso**! Pablo Picasso was a Spanish artist born in 1881. He died in 1973.

First we will look at a few paintings by Pablo Picasso and make observations about his artwork. *Things to notice: Picasso used geometric shapes, solid colors and patterns to create his own unique style known as **CUBISM**. Picasso was not concerned about his portraits looking realistic, and often times the features of the face are not where we would expect eyes, nose and ears to be. Notice how Picasso sometimes draws eyes looking in two different directions, or the nose as a side profile AND as if we were looking at the portrait straight on.*



Notice how Picasso's paintings look very colorful, but upon closer inspection we see that Picasso uses a **LIMITED PALETTE**, meaning he doesn't use every color in the box, but chooses four main colors that will compliment each other, and maybe a contrasting color for highlights. His backgrounds are kept simple so they don't detract from the painting.

Next I will show you how to create our own Cubist style portraits with an easy technique known as "Blind Contour Line Drawing." Blind Contour Line Drawing means we make one continuous line when we are drawing (contour) and we don't look at our paper at all when we draw (that's where the Blind comes in).

### Supplies:

- Black marker or crayon - NO PENCILS, NO ERASING
- paper
- mirror, or friend, or subject to draw
- something to color your finished drawing (optional). I used crayon, colored pencil and marker in this tutorial.

### RULES:

- Draw one continuous line. Don't pick up your marker!
- Don't look at your paper when you draw!

### STEP BY STEP:

- 1) Place your mirror in front of you and your paper off to your side. If you are drawing a friend, sit across from one another, or, sit on opposite sides of the room. You can work in groups of three or more. You don't have to draw "partners"; you can draw anyone as long as you are able to look directly at them. No drawing from memory!
- 2) Set a timer for 2 minutes, or have someone tell you when to start and stop. I have included a 2 minute timer in the video at 11:35
- 3) When the timer stops, look at your drawing and add any finishing details. Don't try to make your drawing look realistic! It is supposed to look a little strange!

## ADDING COLOR:

If you want to color your portrait, think about limiting your color choices to 3 or 4 main colors, and then choose similar shades from marker, colored pencil, crayon, oil pastel, or paint.

When deciding which drawing to color, look for drawings that have larger shapes... not a lot of small or scribbly lines. When you are coloring, you can treat your drawing like a coloring book, choosing different colors or patterns for each shape. Experiment with drawing simple patterns in some of your spaces, or try different mixed media techniques and shading. Check out my Advanced Coloring Techniques video tutorial to learn more in depth coloring methods for combining marker, colored pencil and crayon. You can find this tutorial on my website [sketchingspot.com](http://sketchingspot.com) or my YouTube channel, Sketching Spot!

Links to learn more about Pablo Picasso: <https://www.pablocicasso.org/>  
<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/pablo-picasso>

Thank you to the **North Dakota Council on the Arts** for sponsoring this video! Learn more about the Artist in Residence program by visiting to their website: <http://www.nd.gov/arts/>



Check out my website to view more tutorials, see my artwork, or contact me about online lessons or an on site residency: [www.sketchingspot.com](http://www.sketchingspot.com)

