Pablo Picasso was an expatriate painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and stage designer, born on October 25th, 1881 in Malaga, Spain. Picasso is one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. He has a huge collections of famous artworks including *Three Musicians*, *The Three Dancers* and *Self Portrait: Yo Picasso*. Picasso died on April 8th, 1973 in Mougins, France.

Between 1901 and 1904, Picasso’s works were defined as “The Blue Period” which his paintings are monochromatic paintings in shades of blue and blue-green, only sometimes warmed by other colors. Some of his works that were painted in the Blue Period are *Portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto*, *Femme aux Bras Croisés*, *La Vie* and *The Tragedy*.

He and Georges Braque are the first two creators of Cubism, which later joined by Juan Gris, Jean Metzinger, Albert Gleizes, Robert Delaunay, Henri Le Fauconnier and Fernand Léger. The original year which Cubism started have variously been dated 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1911. However, Picasso’s painting *Les Demoiselles d’Avignon* in 1907 is considered as a protocubist work. In Cubism style, objects are examined, taken apart and reconstruct in an abstracted form. Picasso tends to show the subject from a multitude of viewpoints to represent the subject in a greater context rather than depicting objects from one viewpoint. Pablo Picasso’s Three Musicians in 1921 is a great example of cubism.

Sources:

FEMME AUX BRAS CROISÉS

Use of monochromatic blueish color to depict doleful subject matter

Use of thick and loose black outline for the body

Use of thin lines for this side of the face (the side that is away from the light source)

Use of shading to create a three-dimensional effect
Born on May 11th, 1904 in Figueres, Spain, Salvador Dali was inspired to practice his art and would go on to study at an academy in Madrid. Dali’s parents sent him to drawing school at the Colegio de Hermanos Maristas and the Instituto in Figueres. However, he was not a serious student. He inclined to daydream in class and stand out as the class eccentric, wearing odd clothing and long hair. He eventually got kicked out and never finished. Dali even spent time in jail but that didn’t stop him from painting. Dali then went to Paris in 1920’s which he started to contact Picasso, Magritte and Miro leading to his first Surrealist phase. Dali was very well known as a Spanish surrealist. Dali died on January 23rd, 1989 due to heart failure.

During his remarkable life, Dali produced tons of masterpieces including Soft Construction with Boiled Beans, Swans Reflecting Elephants and one of the most famous artworks in the world, The Persistence of Memory. He drew everyday objects but transformed them in odd ways to give element of surprise and unexpected shapes and forms.

Sources:


PORTRAIT OF ANNA MARIA

- Use of thin line to separate face and arm.
- Use of mid value to create shading effect.
- Use of warm bright color for the background to create pleasing mood.
- Use of dark value to create shadow created by the arm.
Henri Rousseau was born on May 21st, 1844 in Laval, France. He was a self-taught painter who was mocked at during his lifetime but was only given the title of artistic genius after he died on September 2nd, 1910. Rousseau served in the French Army and worked as a toll collector for a majority of his life. He always drew but in 1893 he retired and devoted his life to painting at the age of 49. His famous works include The Sleeping Gypsy, The Happy Quarlet and Jungle with a Lion. His best known paintings represent jungle scenes, even though he never left France or saw a jungle. He also claimed to have invented a new style of portrait landscape, which he attained by drawing a scenery at the background and then draw the subject in the foreground.

Rousseau also played the violin and gave art and violin lessons in 1906. Late that year Picasso arranged a banquet in honor of Rousseau, which was attended by Guillaume Apollinaire, Max Jacob and Mari Larencin. In the year that he died, 1910, an exhibition of his work in the collection of Max Weber took place at Alfred Stieglitz’s gallery “291” in New York. He was given a retrospective at the Salon desk Indépendants in 1911.

Sources:
Self-Portrait of the Artist with a Lamp

- Use of white background
- Use of mid value to create shading effect
- Use of secondary subject along side the primary subject
- Use of min and max value creating contrast