

Every of painting
through which they
try to



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Every artist has their own style and technique of painting through which they try to express their feelings and emotions.

Among them Pablo Picasso was one of the greatest and the most influential artist of all time who used to express his feelings and emotions through his paintings and other works of art. Picasso was born in Spain, on October 25, 1881. Since his childhood, Picasso was very good in art work because he was interested in only drawing pictures rather than studying. He was not only the painter, but was also a sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and stage designer, that is why he was considered one of the recognized and unique artist of all time as well as the creator of cubism. After he completed his study in 1901 he went to Paris and started practicing new styles of art forms such as he did art from the blue period, the rose period, African art style, cubism, surrealism and realism. He mastered in all these styles and became the pioneer in each of these movements.

He continuously improved his style and was able to create his art in all style which was prominent during the 20th century. After moving to Paris, Picasso had to go through several phases which affected him emotionally and mentally, when his friend Carlos Casagemas committed suicide because of his miserable condition and failed love affair. At that time Picasso was very poor and because of his friend's death made him depressed and desolate.

These circumstances created so much influence on Picasso's life which aroused the 'Blue Period' and lasted from 1901 to 1904. At this time, all of his paintings were dominated by the shades of the blue color and in 1903 he completed his most famous paintings from blue period which include, "Blue

Nude", " La Vie" and " The Old Guitarist". This painting by Pablo

Picasso is an oil painting on canvas. The size of the painting is 122.9 * 82.

6 cm and is currently located at " Art Institute of Chicago" (Chicago). The Old Guitarist was one of his most famous works of art through which he tried to tell the stories of the world of the poor people like beggars, Street girls, old and sick people, alcoholics, mother and children and miserable lovers.

This painting is an example of a silent painting which can be interpreted in different ways as per the person's point of view. Therefore, the blue period represents the Pablo Picasso's way of expressing his condition of being helpless and depressed. In this painting " The Old Guitarist",

Picasso has worked with monochromatic blue shapes with a sorrowful theme of miseries of the poor, the ill and his condition of being depressed and loneliness. He used the monochromatic technique to make the viewers focus on the story rather than the color.

The painting consists of two objects as the main focus of the painting: the old man and the guitar. The background of the painting seems to be empty so the main focus goes on the old man holding his guitar. In this painting we can see that he used blue color which is deep and cold throughout the painting except the guitar which is shaded with brown color and counteracts with the blue color. Similarly, muted color which is the mixture of blue with black and white color symbolizes the emptiness in the old man's life. The different color used in guitar makes it the central focus in the painting and symbolizes the only life source of the dying old man. The old man whose physique seems to be slender, angular and elongated looks very poor because his

clothes are turned. Similarly, he looks much starved due to his thin body shape and hollow cheeks.

The old man's closed eyes and facial expression looks as if he is dying painfully. Though the old man looks very thin as his hands look bony and lanky, he still looks muscular which indicates his life spent by doing labor. His haunting facial expression looks like he is aware of his dying and the other details like canyons and crevices in his face express the poverty of the old man.

Though the background of the painting looks plain, the hands and the face of the old man covers most of the areas in the painting. To show the old man's scantiness and starvation, Picasso made his body elongated and to make him look barely alive, his head is dangled down. His arms also looks in an uncomfortable position because of his weakness but they look more strong than the face which illustrates the importance of guitar to the old man and his experience of pain and suffering. Through this painting, Picasso tried to convey the message to the viewers to relate themselves with the real-life situations of the lower class people and how they have to deal with life in order to survive. If we look closely to this painting, we can see the use of lines are more noticeable for the neck of the guitar and for the window in the background. He has used the lines for separating the wall and the floor. The window in the background looks unfinished so; we can use the lines to extend the window to make it look complete. We can also use the lines to extend the separation between the floor and the wall.

Similarly, we can also darken the line between the floor and the wall to make it more visible. Picasso has used different values of blue throughout the painting which makes the painting look very dark and dull. To make the old man look visible he has used a lighter value of blue. I think, the painting has limited height and width as looking at a shape of the window and the old man and are enclosed through lines. Similarly, Picasso has made the old man look three-dimensional.

Likewise, he has used forms to create the picture of old man look alive and to make the body of the guitar look three dimensional. Picasso implies space on the foreground where the old man is sitting by holding the guitar and also implies space in the background of the window where the man is sitting in front of. The negative space in the painting can be seen at the window where the lines are unfinished. Picasso has used balance as to give the painting a feeling of sadness.

Similarly, he has used the balance by coloring the extended environment as blue color. As one side of the painting doesn't reflect the other and the two sides aren't perfectly matching, the painting seems to be asymmetrically balanced and to give the painting a sense of realism. Picasso has used the emphasis by coloring the skin lighter than environment. There is an absence of contrast in the painting as all the colors are used evenly and are similar. We can see the unity on the painting as all the elements used to create a theme of sadness and one main color that is blue is used throughout the painting with different intensities and shades. Likewise, there is not so much use of variety other than the old man who is the centre of the painting and also the guitar the old man is holding is different color from the rest of the

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paintings which gives the variety to the painting. Picasso has used the proportion in the painting by making the old man sitting down and playing the guitar larger than the normal man and also by making the window smaller to show the old man is sitting in the front of it.

When looking closely to this painting it seems as there is another image hidden behind the old man which signifies that the painting has been reused. It does not look as Picasso intentionally placed any significance to the old man because this is not the only painting in which Picasso thought of reusing the painting rather than throwing away a perfectly usable canvas. Therefore, we can make many hypothesis themes from this work of art.

After doing the research on this painting I found that this creation of Picasso, The old Guitarist is effective both emotionally and technically. His technique of using of using color, simplicity and angles, helps the viewers to focus on the figures and objects. Similarly, his use of value and form gives the painting more depth and makes it look three-dimensional. The use of highlights and shading to the face and hands of the old man draws the attention of every viewer and unlock the visualization of the human experience. This single piece of painting expresses the moment of frozen time through the old man holding the guitar and devoting his last minute of life to his guitar.

Hence, all the human experience is captured in one frame of blue simplicity.