

Cubism

Art & Design

The break with single-viewpoint perspective, and its two phases.

Braque and Picasso in Paris from 1907: a picture built from several viewpoints at once, rejecting the single fixed eye that European painting had assumed since the Renaissance.

FROM
1907

PHASES
analytic, then synthetic

- Against: one viewpoint, one moment, illusory depth.
- Analytic phase 1909-1912: fragmented, near monochrome.
- Synthetic phase 1912-1914: collage, flatter, brighter.
- Papier collé put real material into the picture.
- Cézanne's shifting planes were the direct precedent.
- African and Iberian sculpture were taken from, uncredited.

LOOK FOR IT

Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.), 1907, is usually taken as the opening move of the whole thing.

Collage is Cubism's most durable invention. Once a newspaper is glued down, the picture is an object as well as an image.