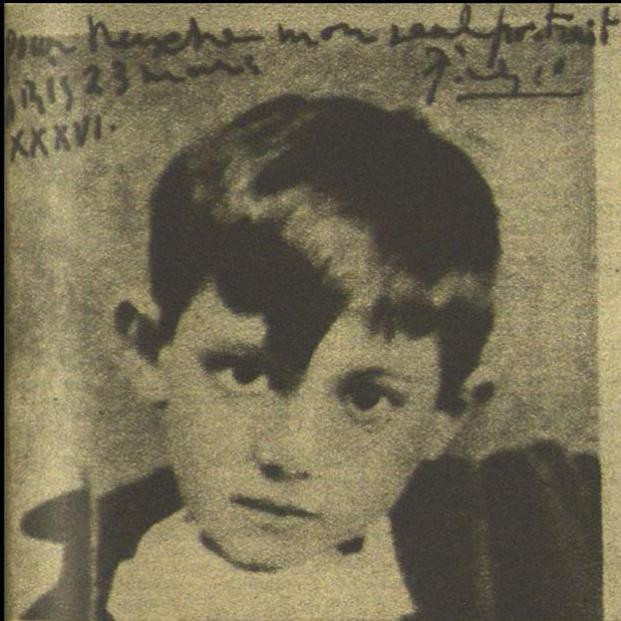


# Understanding Pablo Picasso



"La inspiración existe, pero tiene que encontrarte trabajando"

Pablo Picasso  
(1881 - 1973)



Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno  
Maria de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz Picasso  
Born in Málaga, Spain. 25/10/1881 – 08/04/1973 (age 91)

# Picasso & women

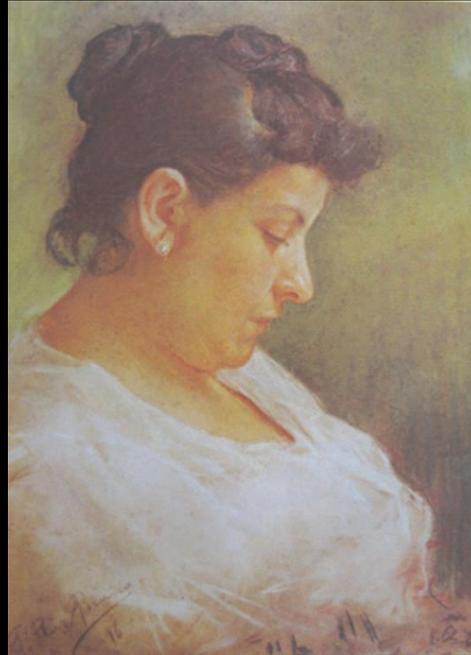
1. **Fernande Olivier** (1881-1966; with Picasso **1904-1911**)
2. **Eva Gouel** (1885-1915; with Picasso **1911-1915**)
3. **Olga Khokhlova** (1891-1954; with Picasso **1917-1935**)
4. **Marie-Thérèse Walter** (1909-1977; with Picasso **1927-1936**)
5. **Dora Maar** (1907-1997; with Picasso **1936-1944**)
6. **Françoise Gilot** (b.1921; with Picasso **1944-1953**)
7. **Geneviève Laporte** (b.1927); with Picasso **1951-1953**)
8. **Jacqueline Roque** (1927-1986; with Picasso **1954-1973**)



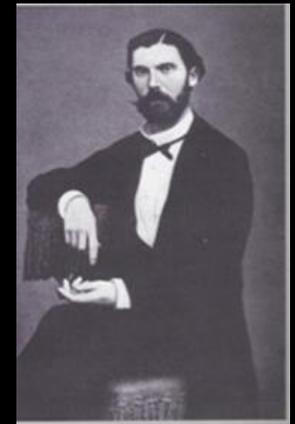
# Pablo Ruiz Picasso



1896: *The Artist's Mother*



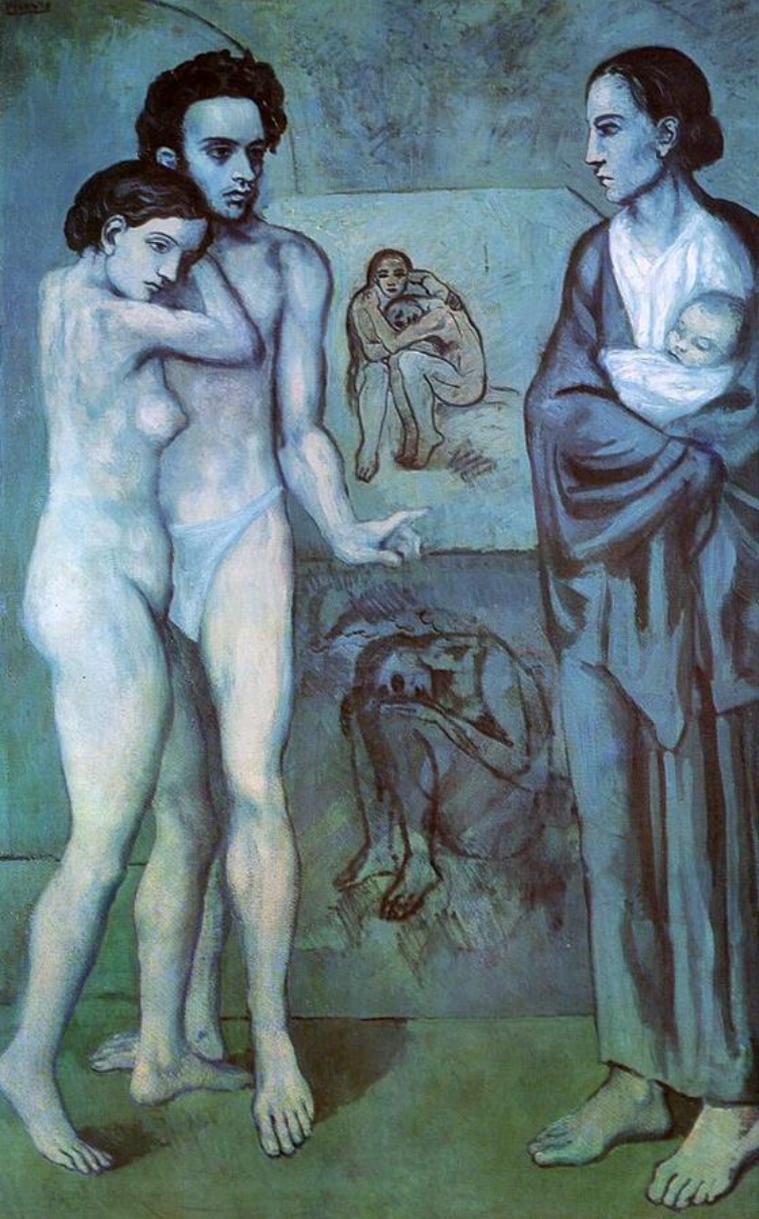
Maria Picasso Lopez  
José Ruiz y Blasco



- Middle-class family: his father a teacher of art in the School of Crafts.
- Painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, and stage designer. 50,000 works of art: 1,885 paintings; 1,228 sculptures; 2,880 ceramics, about 12,000 drawings, many thousands of prints, and numerous tapestries and rugs!
- Picasso holds a special place in the history of modern art. He had the talent and the vision to think beyond his time.

# Picasso's major stylistic phases

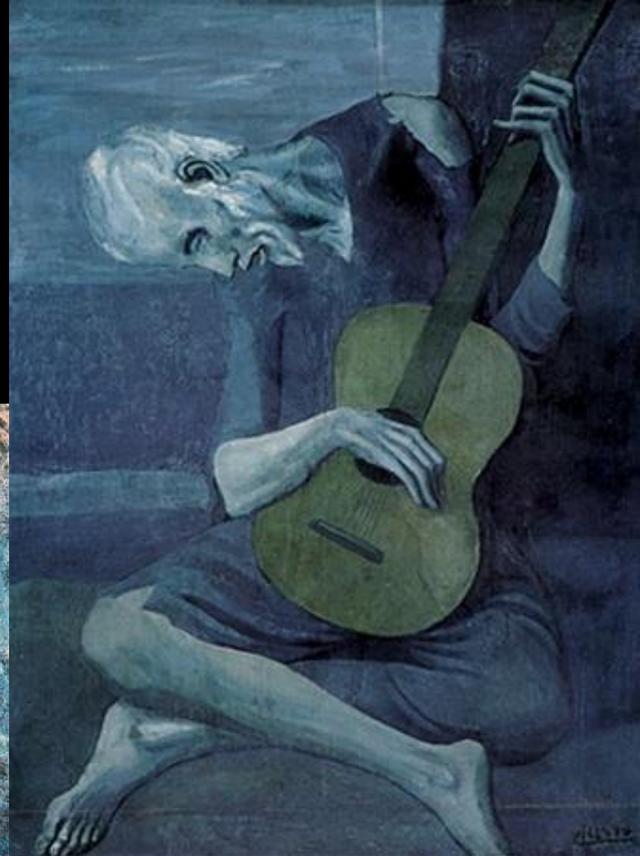
1. Blue Period (1901-5): "La Vie" 1903.
2. Rose Period (1905-6): "Harlequin family" 1906, "The two brothers" 1906.
3. Cubism (1907-1925+):
  - Proto-Cubist Period
  - Analytical Period
  - Synthetic Period: "Guitar" 1913, "Three Musicians" 1921.
  - Crystal Period (1932 onwards)\*
4. Neo-Classicism (1920-30): "Three Woman at the spring" 1921.
5. Surrealism (1926 onwards). Dream-world compositions. "Guernica" 1937.
6. Stained glass style (1932 onwards)\*. Grotesque conventionalized and disjointed forms outlined with thick black lines: "Interior with girl drawing" 1935.
7. Strong expressionist elements (1938 onwards). Subjects that anticipate the terror of war and reveal the conflict in his mind. Double images and extreme distortion. Example: "Two women by the sea". At one stage he appeared to be influenced by Negro sculpture His first consideration in artistic expression is form.



La Vie (1903)



Blue Nude (1903)



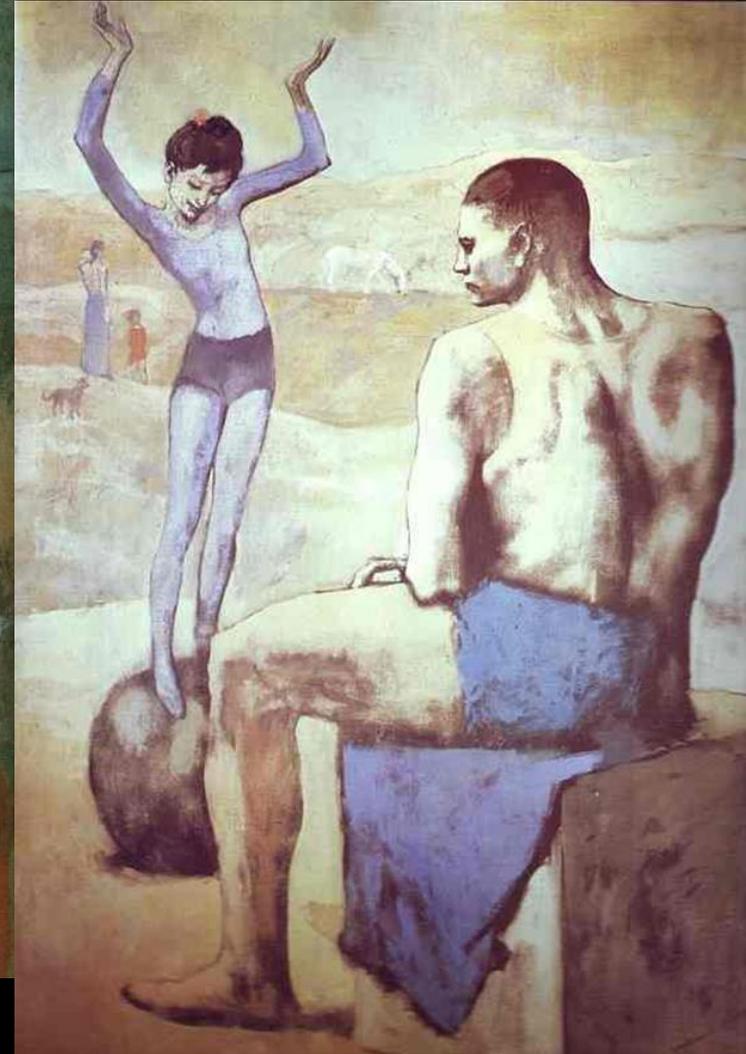
The old guitarist (El guitarrista ciego) (1903)

Picasso??

Apollinaire??



Familia de saltimbanquis (1905)



Acrobata en una bola  
(1905)

# Cubism – Key concepts

- The artwork can be an imitation of reality but it is not reality.
- In contemporary art, it is not painting “well” what matters, but interpreting reality itself.
- Painting is an intellectual activity: paint what is known, not what is seen.
- In order to represent volumes (3D) on a flat surface (2D), the artist decomposes reality into the most basic geometry (the cube). Only basic (geometric, mental) shape outlines (circles, squares, diamonds) are kept.
- The artist destroys the traditional perspective (one single point of view) and plays with perspective and light: combination of planes, disruption of traditional colours (predominance of ochre), juxtaposition of light and dark, faces devoid of human nature.
- Objects are broken apart into a multitude of facets and reassembled in an abstracted form, highlighting their composite geometric shapes, so you can see different and simultaneous viewpoints and angles of the same object (binocular vision) in order to create physics-defying, collage-like effects.
- Collages: painters introduce strange elements in their paintings (playing cards, music sheets, wallpaper, pieces of newspaper, wood, etc.).
- Early Cubist paintings (“Analytic Cubism”) / Later Cubist paintings (“Synthetic Cubism”) further simplification by creating vast collages out of a great number of tiny fragments.



Les Demoiselles  
d'Avignon (1907)

# “Analytic Cubism”



Bread and Fruit Dish on a Table (1909)

“Ma jolie” (1911)



Three Women (1907)



Still Life with Chair Caning (1912)



"Synthetic Cubism"

The Three Musicians (1921)

Mother and Child, 1921

MUSEO PICASSO MALAGA



Retrato de Paulo con  
gorro blanco, 1922



Acrobat, 1930

MUSEO PICASSO MALAGA



Woman with Raised Arms (Dora Maar), 1936



# The Guernica

Picasso's greatest surrealist painting, one of the greatest paintings of all time, was completed in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War. After German bombers supporting Francisco Franco's Nationalist forces carried out a devastating aerial attack on the Basque town of Guernica on April 26, 1937, Picasso, outraged by the bombing and the inhumanity of war, painted "Guernica." Painted in black, white and grays, the work is a Surrealist testament to the horrors of war, and features a minotaur and several human-like figures in various states of anguish and terror. "Guernica" remains one of the most moving and powerful anti-war paintings in history.

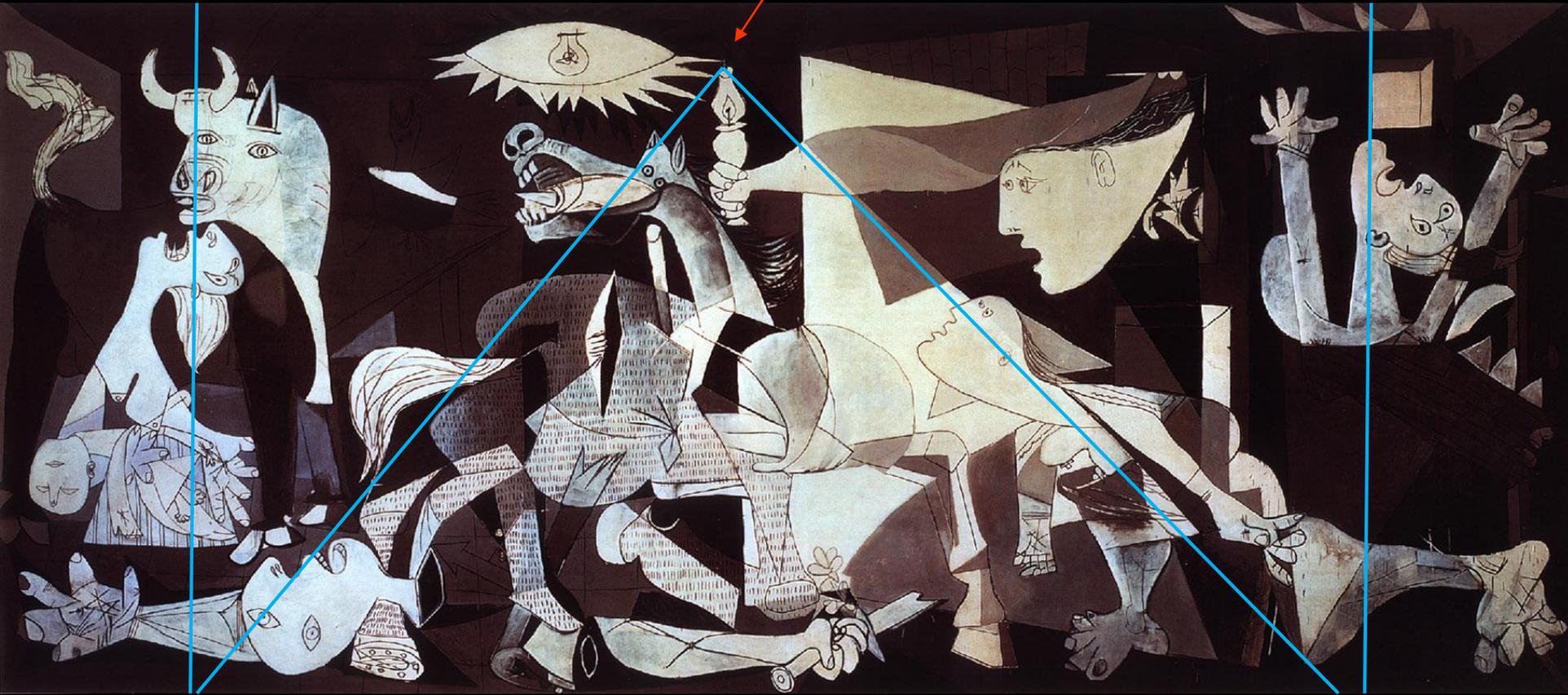
Picasso did not allow The Guernica to return to Spain until democracy returned.

Balanced composition: equilibrium

Vertical axe

Central triangle

Vertical axe



Monochrome: black, gray and white effects  
(some bluish and yellowish reflections)

Huge dimensions: 7.82 m. x 3.51 m

# “Picasso’ Style”

1939: From the period 1939 to 1940, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City held a successful exhibition of his works.

The Second World War had started by this time. Picasso was in Paris, when the German forces occupied it. The Germans opposed Picasso's style of painting, therefore, he could not exhibit, he could only keep working in his studio. Although the Germans banned the use of bronze, the French Resistance would sometimes smuggle some to Picasso, and so he could make more art.

1942: Picasso completed Still Life With Guitar.

1944: Picasso completed The Charnel House.

1944: He had a relationship with Françoise Gilot, a young art student who ultimately left him in 1953.

1946: "Fifty years of his Art", an exhibition of Picasso's vast work was held at MoMA, New York.

1947: His son Claude was born, with Gilot.

1949: His daughter Paloma was born, with Gilot.

1953: Picasso met Jacquelin Roque, who would stay with him till he died.

1967: He made a small-scale model of a public sculpture, the Chicago Picasso. This sculpture is one of the most recognized landmarks in Chicago. He refused to accept payment for the same.

This was the period when his works turned out to be more creative and expressive, although he did not really receive the kind of recognition he deserved. His works were criticized, and it was only after his death that artists realized the use of neo-expressionism in his art.

1973: Pablo Picasso passed away on 8th April, 1973.



Jacqueline (1954)



Jacqueline seated (1954)

**MUSEO PICASSO MALAGA**

# Picasso's Paraphrases: Dialogue & Interpretation

- Picasso reflect on the history of painting, painting his own versions of Velazquez, Manet ...
- The paraphrases are interpretations and explanations to make more transparent and understandable works of great masters of painting: Lucas Cranach the Elder, El Greco, Velázquez, Poussin, Rembrandt, Goya, Courbet, Delacroix...)
- He rebuilds, reconsiders, reflects, remakes... Las Meninas, 44 interpretations.

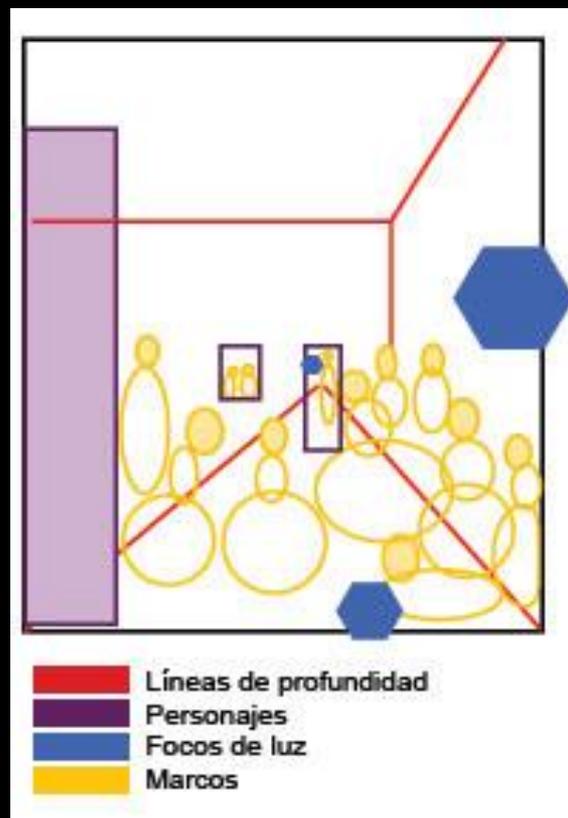
Diego de Velázquez: «Las Meninas» ó “La familia de Felipe IV”, 1657-58.  
Museo del Prado. Madrid

Mix of various traditional genres:  
(1) self-portrait of the artist;  
(2) courtesan group painting;  
(3) local custom scene genre; and  
(4) inside painting genre.

We feel it is a "real scene" we watch  
through the next room door.



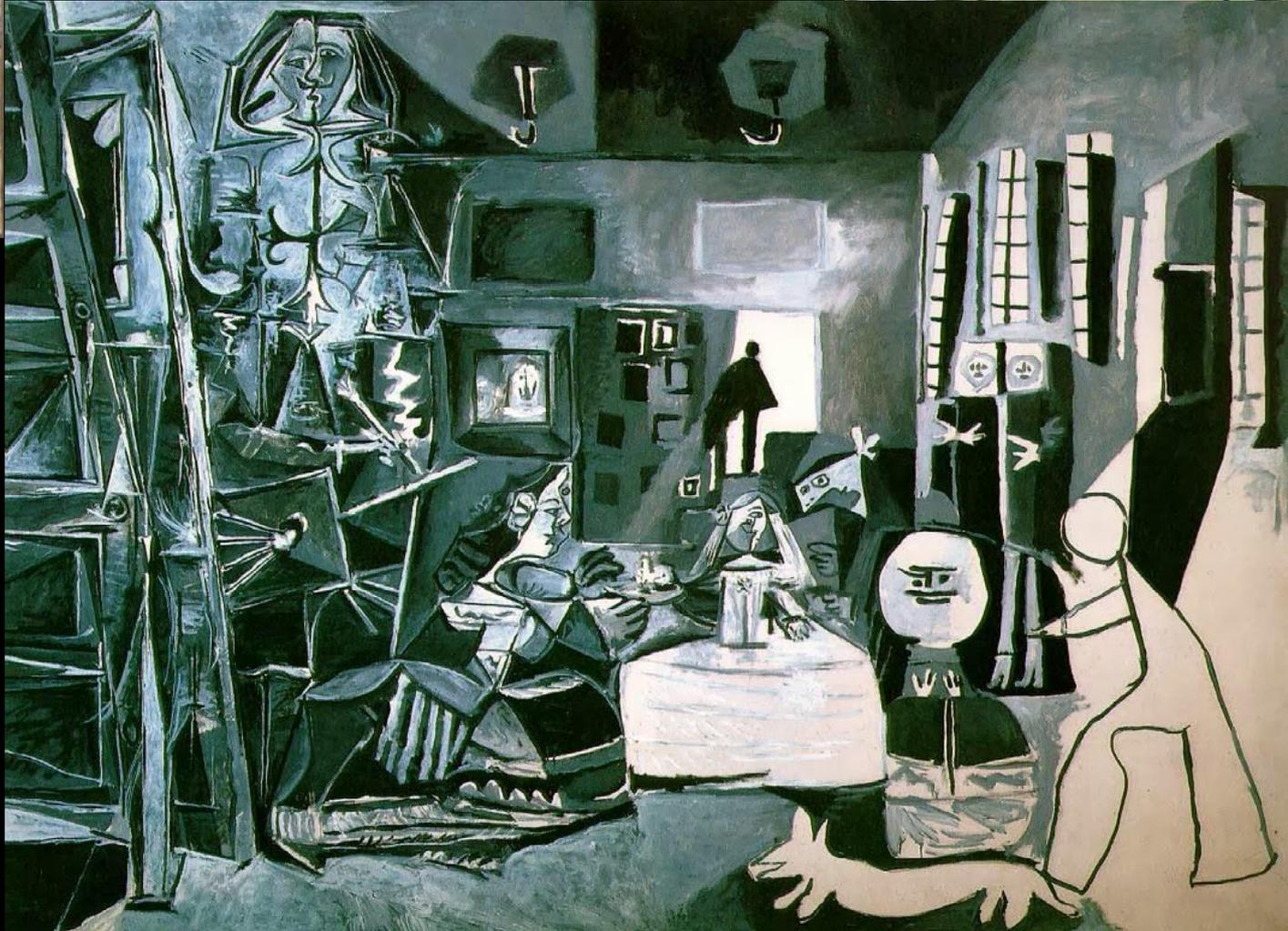
**Space and Light are the real subjects of the picture.** It is not a "passive" space: depth is determined by the "spacings", by light, by reciprocal relationships between things and by the attitudes of the characters.



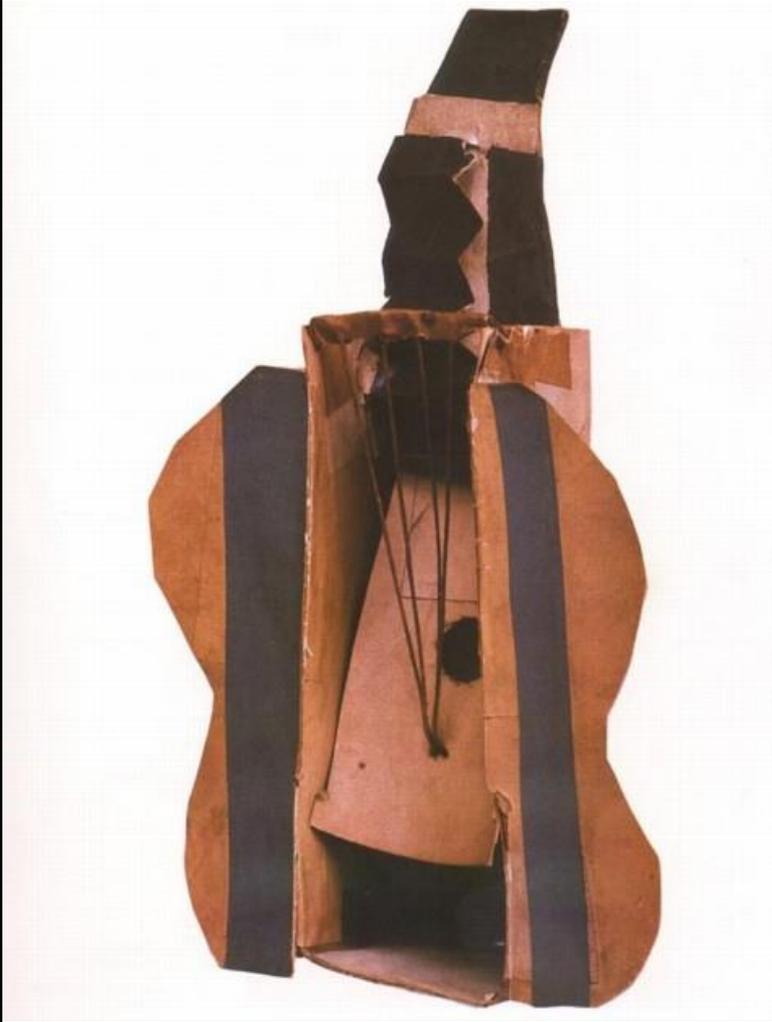
The vanishing point ("punto de fuga") goes from overhead lights and windows lines to the open back door where the palace chamberlain invites us not only to enter but to "get through".



1957: Picasso produced the famous Variations on Las Meninas



# Picasso's sculptures



Guitar (1912)



The goat (1950)



Small Figure, 1907  
(cast in 1964) - Bronze

Bather Playing, 1958  
(Plaster, wood and iron)



MUSEO PICASSO MALAGA

MUSEO PICASSO MALAGA



Insect

- Vallauris, 1951 – White earthenware, painted with slips and oxides, incised

Pablo Picasso worked up until the day he died at age 91; literally painting till 3 am on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 1973, which was just hours before his death.

A year before his death Picasso draws "Self Portrait Facing Death" (pencil and crayon). Strikingly the expression in his eyes, capturing a lifetime of wisdom, fear and uncertainty, is the unmistakable work of a master at the height of his power of expression. Probably this work represents a return to the roots of cubism and the love of primitivism that Picasso developed in the early part of the 20th Century. It has stylistic similarities to one of his great masterpieces, *Les Femmes d'Alger*: in this work Picasso turns his face into a mask, like the African masks that he used as the faces of the women in *Les Femmes d'Alger*.



Self Portrait Facing Death (30<sup>th</sup> June 1972)

# Some resources

Printmaking, how do you do it?

<http://www.museopicassomalaga.org/swfestampacion/index.html>

Interactive Picasso Gallery

<http://www.users.freenetname.co.uk/~leatham/Picasso/PicassoGallery.html>

Picasso Themes and Variations

<http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2010/picassoprints/main.html#>

Picassohead

<http://www.picassohead.com/create.html>

The Secret life of Pablo Picasso-SCULPTURE PAINTING & LOVE

[ps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytOtPiOOVcQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytOtPiOOVcQ)

Biografias Pablo Picasso. Canal Historia. Documental

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7t4wt0evTI>

Quiz

<http://www.sparknotes.com/biography/picasso/quiz.html>

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