

Everything European: Still life in the style of Paul Cezanne

Key Facts

Paul Cézanne was a French painter born in Aix-en-Provence, in the south of France in 1839. He died of pneumonia there in 1906.

Cezanne is considered the greatest master of the Post-Impressionist movement.

The artistic career of Paul Cézanne spanned more than forty years, from roughly 1860 to 1906. He produced more than 900 oil paintings and 400 watercolours, including many incomplete works.

Cézanne reduced objects to their simplest shapes (cubes, spheres, prisms) and set colours next to each other rather than blended together. He broke from classical perspective, allowing perspective to be based on the relationships between objects rather than on a single point. Altogether, this led to the impression that he was examining an object from multiple sides at once.

Cezanne's style set the stage for Cubism.

Key Skills

**Discuss an artist's work** Begin to think critically about the work of an artist. Talk about choices made in art, likes and dislikes, and how these relate to the work of Paul Cezanne and artists influenced by him.

**Shading techniques** To represent different tones through shading. Be able to use different shading techniques to create tones. Understand how they can be applied to create the illusion of three dimensions.

**Composition** Think carefully about how elements are placed or arranged to create a final image. Consider what can be seen from the chosen perspective and what is the focal point.

**Paint techniques** To mix tints and tones to match own observations. Experiment with and use a variety of techniques to recreate the items in a composition.

**Observational drawing** Draw from real life - first hand observation. Look carefully and draw exactly what is seen from a chosen perspective. Carefully consider proportions and form.

Key Vocabulary

**still life** A painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects, typically including fruit and flowers and objects contrasting with these in texture, such as bowls and glassware.

**focal point** The spot that attracts the eye of the viewer because it is visually appealing.

**midtone** Midway between the highlight and the shadow. Midtones show the real color of an object, since the highlights are brighter than the 'true' color and the opposite is seen in the shadows.

**highlights** The lightest part or one of the lightest parts of a painting, drawing, especially one that depicts the areas of the subject receiving the greatest amount of light.

**perspective** Representation of three-dimensional objects or spaces in two dimensional artworks.

**negative space** The space around and between the subject of the image. The positive space is the subject or object of the image.

What else was going on in the World?

1837 - 1901 Queen Victoria's reign.

