

## PABLO PICASSO

### Biography

- 1881 Birth of Pablo Ruiz Picasso in Málaga (Andalusia) on 25 October. His father Don José Ruiz Blasco (1838–1913) is a painter and teacher of drawing at the San Telmo School of Fine Art and conservator of the Municipal Museum in Málaga.
- 1892 Start of Picasso's training as an artist at the Instituto da Guarda art school in La Coruña (Galicia), where his father now teaches.
- 1895 Move to Barcelona, as Picasso's father transfers to the art school La Lonja. Picasso attends this school but skips the classes in the lower years thanks to his gifts as an artist.
- 1897 Enrolment at the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid, which he leaves again after just a few months. Study of the Old Masters in the Prado.
- 1898 Catches scarlet fever; while convalescing, Picasso spends a considerable period with his friend Manuel Pallarès in Horta de Ebro, a mountain village in the province of Tarragona. Makes studies of nature and landscape and breaks with the academic painting of his father.
- 1899 Picasso goes to Barcelona and joins the avant-garde movement there. The cabaret café El Quatre Gats is the rendezvous of artists and intellectuals.
- 1900 Picasso occupies a studio in Barcelona with Carlos Casagemas (1881–1901). First exhibition of his drawings in El Quatre Gats. Picasso takes the name of his mother, Maria Picasso López, and from now on signs his works 'Picasso'. Travels to Paris with Casagemas; during his first stay there mainly moves in artists' circles around Montmartre. Study of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting.
- 1901 Casagemas, disappointed in love, takes his own life in Paris. This suicide affects Picasso strongly. From autumn start of the Blue Period (1901–1904), during which he principally paints in blues and greys. The motifs of these works, which are characterised by great melancholy, revolve around the subjects of poverty, old age and loneliness. First exhibition in Paris in the gallery of Ambroise Vollard (1865–1939). Financial success thanks to the sale of several paintings. Meets the French poet and art critic Max Jacob (1876–1944).
- 1902–04 Picasso returns to Spain, where he mainly lives in Barcelona. Productive phase of work, interspersed with stays of several months in Paris.
- 1904 Picasso now settles permanently in Paris and like many young artists rents a studio in Bateau-Lavoir, where he works until 1909. In addition to numerous French poets, artists and theatre people, he also makes the acquaintance of Guillaume Apollinaire (1880–1918). Fernande Olivier (1881–1966), who acts as model for him and other artists, becomes his partner for the next seven years.
- 1905 Picasso develops the style of painting that Gustave Coquirot later names the Rose Period (1904–1906). In these works he paints impressions from the world of the circus. His preferred motifs are clowns, harlequins and acrobats, whom he depicts in shades of pink and ochre.
- 1906 Meets the American writer Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) and her brother Leo (1872–1947), who become great supporters and collectors of his work. Meets Henri Matisse (1869–1954) and

- André Derain (1880–1954) as well as the art dealers Wilhelm Uhde (1874–1947) and Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler (1884–1979).
- 1907 Influenced by African and Iberian sculptures. Friendship with Georges Braque (1882–1963), with whom he is to work closely to develop Cubism. Starts work on his revolutionary painting *Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.)*. Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler becomes his official agent.
- 1909 Works closely with Braque; start of Analytical Cubism.
- 1911 His relationship with Fernande cools off. Picasso meets Eva Gouel (real name Marcelle Humbert, 1885–1915) and falls in love with her. First Picasso exhibition in the USA. Increasing number of international exhibitions.
- 1912 In autumn Picasso adopts the technique of *papiers collés* (pasted paper; early form of collage) developed by Braque.
- 1913 *Papiers collés* provide the starting point for Picasso to develop Synthetic Cubism.
- 1915 Eva Gouel dies of tuberculosis.
- 1916 *Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.)* is shown in public for the first time.
- 1917 Designs costumes and decorations for the ballet *Parade*. Falls in love with the Russian solo dancer Olga Khokhlova (1891–1955).
- 1918 12 July: marries Olga in the Russian church in Paris. The witnesses are Jean Cocteau (1889–1963), Max Jacob and Guillaume Apollinaire. Moves into a luxurious apartment in the centre of Paris. Paul Rosenberg (1882–1955) becomes his new dealer.
- 1919 Start of Picasso's Neoclassical phase. First exhibitions at Paul Rosenberg's.
- 1921 4 February: birth of son Paulo.
- 1922 Makes the acquaintance of the Dadaist, later Surrealist poets André Breton (1896–1966), Louis Aragon (1897–1982) and Tristan Tzara (1896–1963).
- 1923 Simultaneously produces works in the Cubist and Neoclassical styles.
- 1925 Takes part in the first Surrealist group exhibition in the Galerie Pierre in Paris.
- 1926 The art historian Christian Zervos founds the *Cahiers d'Art*, a magazine for contemporary art. Zervos devotes several issues to Picasso and from 1932 produces with Picasso a catalogue raisonné on Picasso's paintings and drawings (twenty-two volumes are published up to 1972, eleven further volumes after the death of Zervos).
- 1927 Meets Marie-Thérèse Walter (1909–1977), who becomes his model and mistress.
- 1932 Early in the year Picasso paints a series of portraits of Marie-Thérèse. On 16 June Picasso's major retrospective is opened at the Galeries Georges Petit in Paris (until 30 July); the catalogue lists 225 paintings, seven sculptures and six illustrated books. The scale of the exhibition and the fact that the artist himself curated it are innovations. A special issue of the *Cahiers d'Art* is published on the occasion of this exhibition.

- 1932 7 September: Picasso travels to Switzerland with his wife Olga and Paulo to make final preparations for the exhibition in the Kunsthaus Zürich; boat trip on Lake Zurich and reception in Belvoir Park.
- 1932 On 11 September Picasso's first museum exhibition opens in the Kunsthaus Zürich (until 30 October, extended until 13 November). In addition to many guests, representatives of the cantonal government and the city council are present. Picasso travels to the Engadin valley with his family and is not present at the opening. A total of 225 works are on display, 43 of which were not exhibited in Paris. Many works are in the possession of Picasso himself and are available for purchase.
- 1935 Olga leaves Picasso when it becomes known that Marie-Thérèse is pregnant. 5 October: birth of Maya, daughter of Picasso and Marie-Thérèse. Olga's attempts to get a divorce continue for years and fail due to the question of division of assets.
- 1936 Outbreak of the Spanish Civil War on 18 July. The Republican government appoints Picasso as director of the Prado in Madrid. Picasso meets the photographer and painter Dora Maar (1907–1997), who becomes his mistress.
- 1937 He is commissioned by the Republican government to paint a mural for the Spanish Pavilion at the Paris World Fair. The subject of his painting *Guernica* is the German bombing raid on the Basque town of Guernica.
- 1943 Picasso meets the young painter Françoise Gilot (\*1921), who becomes his favourite model.
- 1947 15 May: birth of Claude, son of Picasso and Françoise Gilot.
- 1948 Picasso settles on the Côte d'Azur and moves into the Villa La Galloise in Vallauris. He produces many ceramic works there.
- 1949 19 April: birth of Paloma, daughter of Picasso and Françoise Gilot. Paloma is named after his lithograph *The Dove*, made for the World Peace Congress in Paris.
- 1953 Françoise Gilot leaves Picasso and moves to Paris with their children; he meets Jacqueline Roque (1926–1986), who becomes his new partner.
- 1955 Death of Olga Khokhlova.
- 1961 Picasso marries Jacqueline Roque and moves to Mougins.
- 1963 Picasso Museum in Barcelona opens.
- 1971 On the occasion of his ninetieth birthday the Musée du Louvre devotes an exhibition in the Grande Galerie to Picasso. He is the first living artist to be honoured in this way.
- 1973 On 8 April Picasso dies in Mougins and is buried on his estate at Vauvenargues.