

## Unit 11: The Genius of Picasso

**Narrator:** Where does genius come from? According to Pablo Picasso, his own journey to becoming a genius began at birth with a puff of smoke in the face from his uncle's cigar. But it is more likely that Picasso was simply born with a rage to master, a strong drive or passion to succeed and push the boundaries of art. This drive led Picasso to buck traditions and create new styles of art.

I am not in favor of following any determined school, he said, because that only brings about similarity among adherents. When Picasso moved to Paris at the age of 22, he spent time with many other creative artists and writers. They inspired one another, and from this, emerged Picasso's most famous contribution to art history. A new style of art called cubism.

Cubism showed us the world as Picasso saw it: a world of irregular shapes and unusual forms. A picture used to be a sum of additions, Picasso said. With me, a picture is a sum of destructions.

Throughout his career, Picasso often reinvented his medium and style and made thousands of works of art including sculptures, drawings, and paintings.

Scientists have discovered that art like Picasso's invites us to think creatively. It's because our brains enjoy taking the incomplete clues and filling in the missing details. Picasso's effect is to make us see the world differently. It's part of what makes him an artistic genius. For Picasso, the picture lives only through the man who is looking at it.