

Pablo Picasso was a very famous artist. He was a painter, a sculptor and a printmaker, but painting was his favourite form of art. He was Spanish but lived for most of his life in France.

His mother said that when he was a very young child, the first words he spoke were “piz, piz”, which was short for the Spanish word *lápiz*, which means pencil.

By the time he was about seven years old he was already a clever artist. His father, who was also an artist, taught him how to draw people and to make plaster models of people (figures).

As he grew up he made many different kinds of artworks and invented different forms of art for which he became very famous. One such art form is cubism, which Picasso developed along with fellow artist Georges Braque. In cubism the subject of the artwork is viewed at the same time from different viewpoints, and different geometric shapes are used. Picasso also worked with pieces of cut paper and created the collage art form.

In his life he is thought to have made around 50,000 artworks, some of which have become so famous that people pay a lot of money for them. One artwork sold for US\$179 million and more of Picasso’s paintings have been stolen, (because they are worth so much) than anyone else’s paintings.

Art was a ‘way of life’ for Pablo Picasso. He also changed the way many people think about and see art.

Picasso said this about art:
“Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth.”

