

## "Bouquet of Peace" Lesson: Pablo Picasso Created by Art in Action



*Hands with Flowers, Pablo Picasso, 1958*

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## Artist Background: Pablo Picasso



Pablo Picasso  
(1881-1973)

- Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born in Spain in 1881. Picasso's father was an art teacher who encouraged his son to paint and draw. As a child, Picasso painted with extraordinary realism and talent. As an adult, he chose to use his talent to invent new abstract styles.
- Picasso's painting style changed many times during his life. As a young boy he drew so well he was given awards before he was 10 years old. As he got older he moved away from realism. He once said, "When I was a child I painted like a photograph. It took me a lifetime to learn to paint like a child." When Picasso went to Paris as a young man he experimented with Impressionism.
- Picasso is best known for the work he did in a style he developed called Cubism. Cubism is an abstract way of painting that breaks up forms, sometimes into little cubes, but often just into simple shapes. Using simple shapes helps focus on the meaning of the picture.
- In *Mains aux Fleurs*, or *Hands with Flowers*, Picasso shows a hand giving flowers to another hand. The secret is the reason for the gift as well as the giver and receiver of the flowers. Many artists paint still life flowers, but Picasso added a hidden thought: What is the message?

- Picasso lived to be 92 years old. During his long life, Picasso used many different styles and mediums. He was a sculptor and a printer, he made ceramics and pen-and-ink drawings, and he even made jewelry and sets for plays.
- Picasso's enormous talent, imagination, and originality add up to an artistic temperament that can be called genius. Picasso's influence on modern art has been immeasurable.

## Art Discussion: Hands With Flowers



*Hands with Flowers*, Pablo Picasso, 1958

### **What is happening to the flowers?**

Someone is holding or giving the flowers away. Why? Are they saying, “I love you,” or “I’m sorry,” or “Let’s be friends”? Why do people give flowers? Do the hands belong to one person or two? They belong to two people because they are both right hands. Which hand is giving the flowers and which is taking them? The top hand seems to be pushing them away to the other hand.

### **How many flowers are in this bouquet?**

Find four large flowers and three small ones. What else is in the bouquet? Find stems, leaves, and grasses.

### **What makes these flowers look happy?**

The bright colors and face-like flowers are like sunshine. Which flower do you notice first? Most people are attracted to bright colors first. Find the two brightest colored flowers.

**Are the flowers realistic?**

The flowers are like daisies with a solid center and petals radiating out. Most daisies have more petals, but they look like this. The colors of the red and yellow flower and the red and orange flower are realistic. They are like zinnias or colored daisies. But the blue and purple flower and the blue and red flowers are not like any real flowers. Picasso used bright colors to make them look happy, but he didn't try to make them look realistic.

**What main shape is repeated in this flower arrangement?**

Oval shapes are repeated. Most of the flowers are round or oval. Ovals are repeated in the fingernails and hands. Long straight stems give contrast.

**How did Picasso paint the flowers?**

Picasso used a big brush to paint the flowers and a pen or thin brush for all the hands and stems. He painted the flower centers first, the flower petals next, and then the hands. He painted the stems last. We can see where they fit around the hands.

# Art Project: 3-D Flowers (30 mins)

## Materials:

- coffee filters
- fabric scraps
- 8x10 tissue paper in assorted colors (4 per child)
- 6" pipe cleaners (5 each)
- tempura wash in several colors
- paint brushes
- scissors
- green construction paper (optional)



## Instructions:

### *Flower #1:*

1. Dampen coffee filter by sprinkling with water. Dip paintbrush into the tempura wash and touch the brush to the filter. Watch the paint spread. Add other colors. Paint randomly or make a pattern like circular rings. Let filter dry.
2. Fold the painted filter in half to make a half circle. Fold again in quarters and then again 2 more times to make a narrow wedge. Cut a scalloped edge along the wide end of the wedge.
3. Make a pipe cleaner stem. Wrap a pipe cleaner tightly around the pointed end of the flower. Twist the pipe cleaner around the bottom 1/2" of the flowers and secure it with a tight twist. Spread the petals and fluff them into a flower shape.



Step 2: Cutting a scalloped edge

*Flower #2:*

1. Poke three 6" pipe cleaners through the center of the fabric scrap. Leave 2" of each pipe cleaner sticking out the top for the stamens.
2. Fold the fabric scrap in half. Scrunch the middle of the scrap around the pipe cleaners.
3. Wrap one of the pipe cleaner stems up around the scrunched cloth and the other stamens. Curl the ends of the stamens that are sticking out from the inside of the flower. Adjust the cloth to look like flower petals.

*Flower #3:*

1. Choose four colors of tissue paper and stack in a pile one on top of the other. Fold the paper lengthwise like an accordion.
2. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center of the folded tissues to hold them in place and make the stem. Gently pull each piece of tissue towards the top center of the flower. Separate each sheet of tissue from the others forming the petals of the flowers.

Arrange flowers in a small container "vase". Trim stems if necessary. Make leaves from green construction paper and glue or tape to the pipe cleaner stem. Stick into the vase.