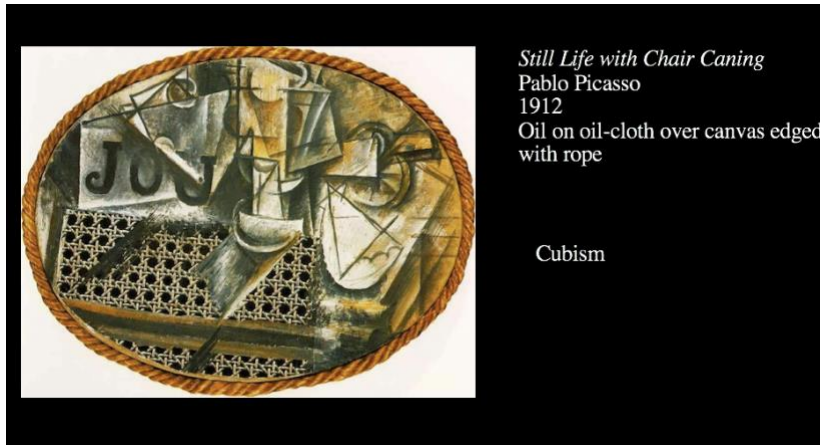
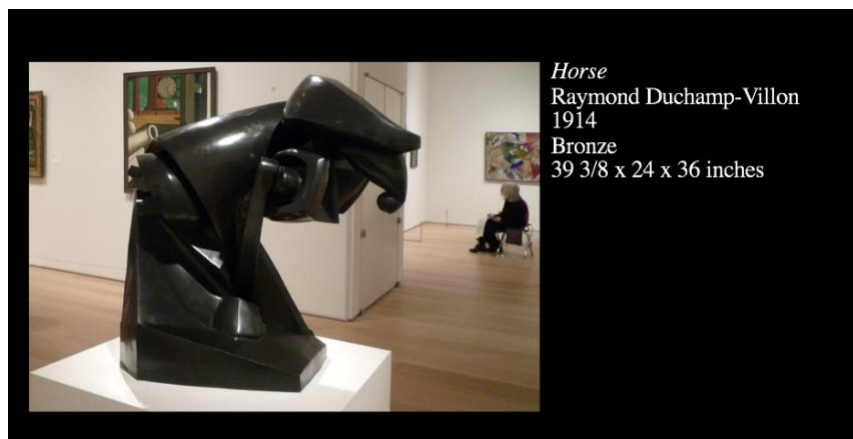


**RESPONSE QUESTION 1/3: Describe this painting. Try to describe how space is depicted here. Write about a paragraph.**



Many of you described this painting as confusing and chaotic, and difficult to describe. And this is true. The canvas is an oval edged in rope. Within the rope Picasso paints a still life of standard objects, perhaps a candle in the center and a newspaper or book whose headline or title we can see only part of- "JOU." These sit flat against the gridded caning of the chair. What was most important, as many of you said, is the flatness of the painting. We know this a painting of objects on some sort of surface and a few of them even cast shadows, but overall this is a very two-dimensional painting. There is no perspective- no vanishing point, no orthogonal lines, no horizon line. Picasso emphasizes flatness over depth.

**RESPONSE QUESTION 2/3: Describe this figure in a few sentences. Try to focus on being precise in your description of the abstraction.**



*Horse* is an abstracted depiction of an animal; with only a few allusions to body parts, perhaps a bending leg in the diagonal edge at the right of the base, or a triangular hoof in the center of the base, the sculpture uses abstraction to ambiguate what we're looking at. This doesn't seem like a living creature. Instead of a nose and eyes, its head it's a horizontally stretched piece of metal that ends with a hook and has a swirling circle where the eye should be. This looks very mechanical, as if the swirl is a cog in a machine, rather than a body part.

One of you asked what I mean when I say to be precise: **“When you say precise, do you mean being straightforward on how it looks like after a quick glance or decide whether or not the object connects to the title of the object?”**

I don't mean to say whether or not it looks like a horse, but you may. I mean to explain your descriptions. Don't just say it looks like a horse or doesn't, but explain why or why not. It can be hard to describe abstract works of art, but when you do, try to explain what they look like as if a viewer can't see a picture of it. Where looks like a head? What looks like a hoof? Etc.

### **Student Questions**

**Was the use of abstracted art a sign that people wanted to do something different besides the norm of art back in the days?**

The norm of art was shifting. With new technologies and deadlier wars, people needed to find new ways to depict this new way of being. Matisse famously remarked that during World War II that he couldn't bring himself to paint still life painting because it didn't feel right anymore. Art had to change with the changing world.

**Is using a reserve line a characteristic of cubism paintings?**

No, and Matisse was not a Cubist. Cubism is geometric and uses lines. Color is secondary. A reserve line relies on color.

**Did cubism take aspects of art and design from other countries and cultures?**

Absolutely. Notably, Picasso was influenced by African masks and sculptures from ancient Iberia (the region that is now Spain and Portugal). He looked to them much the same way that Gauguin looked at non-European art, in a Primitivist way.

**Why were certain art forms more favored than another?**

Preferences change with time and across cultures, and also depend on individuals. So Impressionism, which wasn't favored when it first emerged, is very popular now. It's hard to say exactly why certain movements are popular and others aren't. Shock value may have contributed to the initial dislike of certain movements. But, with shock also comes fame- Manet's *Olympia* for example, while mocked, was very famous. It was called a *succès de scandale*, a success of scandal.

In terms of medium- sculpture, painting, drawing, etc... That really depends on taste and the artist. Someone might be more inclined to buy a painting because they have a space to hang it on their wall, but not as many people have a spot for a massive sculpture. Some artists work in only one medium while others work in many. It's really difficult to say why. I can say that we didn't study paintings in the earliest classes because very few survive from the ancient world. For later periods we have more paintings so we are able to look at more. Sculptures are still produced though, as are drawings, and works of architecture.

**Are the vocabulary lists for the art terms being updated and added to the vocabulary tab on the website?**

The vocabulary lists aren't being updated because all of the vocabulary is in the lecture notes. Vocabulary is bolded in the lecture notes.