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# How to appreciate paintings

Easel painting includes such genres as:

- ✓ portrait painting or portraiture;
- ✓ landscape painting;
- ✓ still life painting;
- ✓ genre painting;
- ✓ historical painting, the painting of battle scenes, animal painting, poster painting, cartoon painting, miniature, icon painting.

A painting can be painted in water-colours, in oils, etc., or be drawn in pencil, in pen, in ink, in crayon or in chalk as in charcoal, in pastel, in sanguine; it can be painted from nature, i.e. in the open air or in the studio.

The Still Life

A still life is a painting that is without people. In French a still life is called a 'nature morte', a 'dead nature', which is a strange name that is used to describe Nature, which is by definition, 'living'. The term only dates from the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century in France, before that they were called 'resting nature' or 'motionless objects'. The English name 'still life' is derived from the Dutch 'stilleven', or 'motionless life'. But 'still' has another meaning, 'silent', and this seems more appropriate to describe the bouquets of flowers, piles of fruits, haunches of venison and the full array of the huntsman's bag that constitute a still life painting.





# The Landscape

In France a number of artists, known as the Barbizon School, began to paint sketches in the open air, so as to capture reality better. The final painting, though worked over in the studio, had a greater air of spontaneity.





### The Portrait

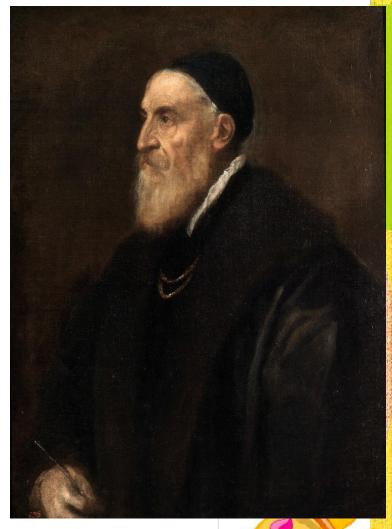
Nowadays famous faces are widely reproduced in the media.

Television, magazines and newspapers spread them quickly throughout the world. But prior to the invention of photography, things were not so easy. How could a king, for instance, become known to all his subjects? There was only one way: to commission a portrait from a painter, sculptor or engraver.



#### Titian

Titian worked in different genres: he painted portraits, landscapes, altarpieces, mythological subjects. Basing his work on motifs from antiquity, he painted a number of pictures featuring the nude female picture. Whatever subject Titian set his hand to, he treated it in his rich and sweeping style.



### William Turner

Turner was a short, stocky man with rather striking features, who became through genius, determination and energy one of the greatest artists of England. His talent became evident in his boyhood.



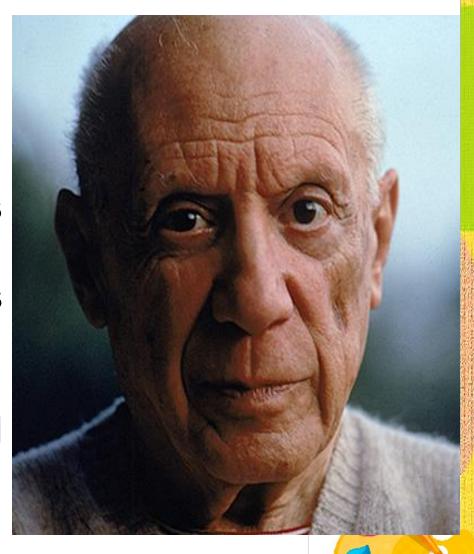




#### Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso created over 6,000 paintings, drawings and sculptures.

In 1950, Picasso was elected to the World Peace Council and was awarded the International Peace Prize, the USSR, he was twice awarded the Lenin Prize.



# Ukrainian Painting

Ukrainian pictorial art is an integral part of world culture. It goes back to the art of Kyiv Rus'.

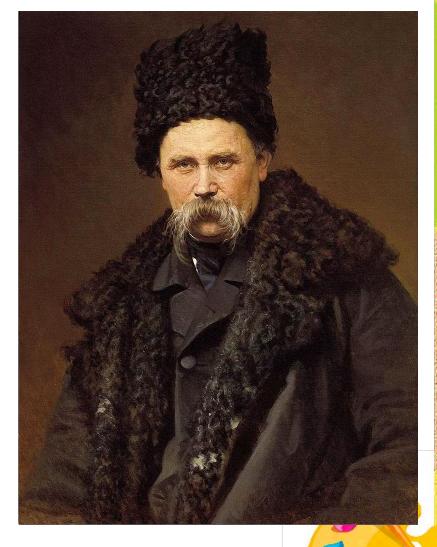
Several generations of contemporary painters continued the traditions of their predecessors. Nowadays, along with realistic art, Ukrainian painters work in other trends – abstractionism, expressionism,

cubism, surrealism, etc.



### Taras Shevchenko

The creative works of Shevchenko as an artist are all permeated with an idea of the beauty of man and the world. Each of the artist's brush or pencil strokes displays his aspiration for harmony, his call for the struggle for the happiness of the people. The creative legacy of Shevchenko is a source of national pride for the Ukrainian people and belongs to entire mankind.





### Stories about Painters

- When James Whistler, an American painter, had finished a portrait of a well-known celebrity, he asked the man whether he liked it.
  - "No, I can't say I do, Mr. Whistler, and you must really admit it's a bad work of art".
  - "Yes", replied the artist, looking at the sitter, "but then you must admit that you are a bad work of nature".



- A rich, but ignorant Englishman once came to the famous painter Joseph Turner and ordered a painting. When it was finished, he refused to pay the price that artist demanded.
  - "Why", he exclaimed, "all that money for a square yard of canvas and a little paint?".
  - "Oh!" replied Turner, "if it's just paint and canvas you want, here is a half used tube and over there in the corner you'll find some canvas. I won't charge you much for them".



- A rich London banker asked a well known painter to draw something in his album. The painter did it and asked for fifty pounds.
  - "Why", cried out the banker. "it took you only 5 minutes to do it!"
  - "Yes", answered the painter, "but it took me 20 years to learn how to do it in 5 minutes".

