Cycle 3, Week 14 – Picasso's Portraits

Learning target: To understand and imitate Picasso's portraits in the Cubist style.

Materials: images of Picasso's work, pencils, watercolor paper, brushes, watercolor paints, palettes, black crayons, water, cups, paper towels

1. Show images of Picasso's paintings, both from his early years and later cubist style, specifically portraits. Have students describe what they see (colors, lines, imagery, etc). Also have them describe the facial features of one of his Cubist portraits. Do you think Picasso chose to draw "weird", or do you think he was just bad at drawing? Why might he have chosen to draw and paint like he did? (5 minutes)
2. Give students the definition of Cubism. Here are some possibilities:

An art movement where artists present "different views of subjects together in the same picture, resulting in paintings that appear fragmented and abstracted." ([www.tate.org.uk)](www.tate.org.uk)

"The Cubist style emphasized the flat, two-dimensional surface of the picture plane, rejecting the traditional techniques of perspective and foreshortening, and refuting time-honoured theories that art should imitate nature." (www.britannica.com)

3. Give each student a piece of watercolor paper and a pencil. Have students draw a large oval slightly up from center of the paper. This will be the face. Next draw the neck and shoulders. (If you have young students, have this pre-drawn for them)
4. Switch to using a black crayon for the remainder of the drawing. Using the crayon, trace over the lines just drawn.
5. Draw a curved line across the face area.
6. On one side of the curved line, draw one eye looking straight on. On the other side of the curved line, draw an eye from a side view.
7. On one side of the curved line draw half of a mouth. Complete the mouth in a different "style" on the other side of the line.
8. Draw one nose from two angles, or draw two noses at different angles, or be creative and figure out how to draw a nose like Picasso might have!
9. Draw ears if desired.
10. Draw the outline of the hair. Do <u>not</u> fill it in with lines.
11. Use watercolor paints in a variety of colors to fill in the shapes.