

Artwork Directions for “Three Musicians” Painting

Art Materials:

- Use white paper.
- Choose one or more of the following: paint, crayons, oil pastels or cut shapes collaged on paper. Any combination of these will work as well.
- Display a copy of Picasso’s “Three Musicians.”
- Display graphics of jazz instruments: piano, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, drums, or bass.

Discussion to Provide Artists with Background Knowledge and Information:

- Doing their art work in the style of Picasso’s “Three Musicians.” Observe and deconstruct the painting.
- Discuss the difference between realistic and abstract works of art.
- Note and model the difference between organic and geometric shapes.
- Discuss Picasso’s use of shapes and colors.
- Give choice: artists can draw a face in profile as an option.
- Give choice: artists can draw one or three musicians.
- Use angle lines opposed to curved lines throughout the drawing.

Note: Draw large to fill the paper. If legs or arms fall off the paper, that is fine. The instrument and the head are the most important part. Choosing to draw one musician or three will affect which way artists orient their paper, vertically (one musician) or horizontally (three musicians).

Directions for Artists:

- Draw an abstract instrument, placing it on their paper high, low, vertical, diagonal, or whatever is appropriate for their chosen instrument.
- Draw small triangle, square, or rectangles for the eyes. (Eyes do not have to be the same shape. The artist will decide, and there might just be one eye if their musician is in profile.)
- Draw a geometric abstract head using angled lines around the eye(s) to create the head. No circles or curved lines are allowed, but funky is allowed.
- Draw arms coming from the head shape and going to the instrument using angled line. Again, no curves and avoid making them too thin.
- Note: These “arm” lines will form a shape creating a torso.
- Draw angled lines coming from the instrument to create legs. Remember, no curves and not too thin.
- Add hats, feathers, bow ties, mustaches, beards, shoes—whatever artists can think of for their musician, but remind them to keep it abstract.
- Place a pattern on one thing in their drawing and color in what they choose—just like Picasso did.
- Sign near bottom just like Picasso!

To add cubist style: Three to five straight lines will be drawn to break up the picture plane.

Then add color added. Follow these directions:

- Draw a line using a ruler to divide the picture plane in two parts. The picture plane should not be evenly divided.
- Add two to four more straight lines. These lines intersect or end at the first line. The lines go through the musician and/or the instrument.
- To add color: Each time a line divides a shape, use a different color.
- Sign near bottom just like Picasso!