

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today the Art Parent came into our class and showed us our **Masterpiece of the Month**.

Before we got to learn about our Masterpiece of the Month, we read a book called Ish by Peter Reynolds. It was about a boy names Ramon who loved to draw. Anytime. Anything. Anywhere. One day, Ramon's older brother told him that his drawing of a vase of flowers didn't look "right". Ramon became very frustrated and gave up drawing until his younger sister gave him her opinion of his work. Ramon's flowers looked "flower-ish". "Ish" gave Ramon a whole new perspective and he became inspired to draw again.

Then we learned about a famous artist whose paintings looked very "ish". We looked at Petite Flores by Pablo Picasso. Picasso was one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. And very little of what he painting looked accurate to real life.

His father was an artist and encouraged his son to paint and draw from a very young age. **Picasso's painting style changed more over his life than any other great artist. He was always trying new and different things.**

For a while Picasso was sad, and he painted everything blue (referred to as his **Blue Period**.) After that he fell in love, and painted everything a rosy color (referred to as his **Rose Period**.)

Cubism was the next style that he made famous...and it was one of the most important periods in modern art. When Picasso painted using cubism, it looks as if his picture had been broken into little cubes and rearranged. Maybe we could go see one of Picasso's cubism paintings at the Art Institute of Chicago some time.

Over the years Picasso's paintings became much more colorful and flat looking. This is when he painted Petite Flores.

The thing that made Picasso such a great artist was his originality. He had the courage imagination to try new and different things through his entire life.

Picasso lived to be 92. He was a great painter, but he was great at other things, too. He made sculptures (like the one at the Civic Center in Chicago) and dishes and bowls and even costumes for plays.

Ask me about Petite Flores by Pablo Picasso. I will have a lot to share!



Petite Flores



Sculpture unveiled in 1967 in Daley Plaza, Chicago