

Paul Cezanne (1839-1906)

(Post Impressionist Artist)

Where/when was he born....?

Paul Cezanne was born in Aix-En-Provence, France in 1839. He died in 1906. He was the son of a wealthy banker.

He was a French **POST IMPRESSIONIST ARTIST*** see help sheet

Who was he - what did he do...?

He was a French **POST IMPRESSIONIST ARTIST * see help sheet.**

He began to paint landscapes in the **Impressionist style (using dots/ dabs/ lines to make a quick Impression of a view)**. He showed his paintings at the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874. He eventually stopped painting in the Impressionist style. **Paul Cezanne tended to work very slowly.** He understood the Impressionists theories about colour and light, and the capturing of a quick impression of what they saw, but did not use their quick technique of painting to capture lighting and weather conditions.

His main works are....?

The type of paintings that Cezanne was best known for include **STILL LIFE paintings, portraits of himself, relatives and friends, landscapes and figure paintings.**

His **STILL LIFE** compositions were based on everyday objects such as fruit, jugs, bowls, and white cloth. These groups were arranged with tall objects next to small objects. **Often these arrangements formed “triangular” shaped compositions.**

In setting up still life groups he arranged the objects in a very unusual way. He tilted, propped and wedged objects, rather than accept a more natural arrangement. This gives his paintings the illusion that the artist is working from more than one viewpoint. In some paintings, you can see the objects sitting at quite strange angles. Sometimes the group may even appear to be sliding off the table top!

What materials did he use.....?

Cezanne chose **oil paint** as his main working media. He sometimes chose to paint using watercolours. Cezanne used colour and tone to suggest the 3D form or structure of an object EG: an apple/ or a jug. **He used colour to create depth and shadow in a painting, by placing cool, receding colour in the shadows and background, and he used warm advancing colour on the foreground objects, to bring them closer to the viewer.**

His painting technique involved the use of **hatching brushstrokes of oil paint, sometimes placed on the canvas in parallel rows, or at angles to describe the form.** Some paintings even have a “woven” like appearance due to this hatching/ crosshatching technique - look at the example “7 Apples”.

The underlying 3D structure of objects, and nature was also important to Cezanne. His belief was that :

“Every thing in nature adheres to the cone, cylinder and cube”

