

Paul Cezanne

Paul Cezanne was born on January 19, 1839 in Aix, France. He started to study painting at École des Beaux-Arts in Aix in 1856, at the opposition of his father who insisted that he study law. After failing artistically in Paris, he finally succumbed to working at his father's banking house, but still studied art concurrently. However, his hunger for art was not satiated, and he eventually moved back to Paris to continue his artistic studies. For many years he remained in limbo physically and figuratively, as he moved back and forth between Aix and Paris, and alternating between working at his fathers bank and pursuing art.



For the rest of Paul Cezanne's life he worked privately on his artwork, however only garnered generally disappointing responses from the public, likely due to his unconventional values of painting and his lack of technical proficiency. It was not until after his death, that his work was honored and revered for the fierceness of his unique post-impressionist style that continued to influence the Cubist movement.

Due to his exploration of shape in his more cubist art, he developed an interest in simplifying naturally occurring shapes down to their bare essentials. He wanted to “treat nature in terms of the cylinder, the sphere and the cone”. For example, a tree trunk could be thought of as a cylinder. He also explored binocular vision to try to give a different sense of depth from the more traditional single or double-point perspective. He would sometimes paint two slightly different views of objects on top of each other, to try to mimic human perception. He thought that there was no truer a representation of something than exactly what his eyes could see.



Sources:

Paul Cézanne. (2019, September 13). Retrieved March 02, 2021, from <https://www.biography.com/artist/paul-cezanne>

Paul Cézanne. (2021, January 15). Retrieved March 02, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paul-Cezanne>

Truong, A. (2019, May 10). Paul Cézanne (1839-1906), BOUILLOIRE et fruits, 1888-1890. Retrieved March 02, 2021, from <http://www.alaintruong.com/archives/2019/05/10/37326883.html>

Cézanne, Paul (2013). *The Letters of Paul Cézanne*. Translated by Danchev, Alex. Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Museum. p. 334.

Jon Kear, Paul Cézanne Reaktion Books, 1 March 2021, p. 65

Smith, P. (2013). Cézanne's "Primitive" Perspective, or the "View from Everywhere". *The Art Bulletin*, 95(1), 102-119. doi:10.2307/43188797