

Berlin, 1909-44 mainly Norway. One of the pioneers of Expressionism, particularly influential in Germany (e.g. artists of 'Die Brücke').

"One evening I was walking along a path--on one side lay the city and below me the fjord. I was tired and ill--I stopped and looked out across the fjord--the sun was setting--the clouds were dyed red like blood. I felt a scream pass through nature; it seemed to me that I could hear the scream. I painted this picture--painted the clouds as real blood--the colours were creaming--" (1918).

EDOUARD VUILLARD (1868-1940) - Painter. Born France. One of the Nabis 1889-99. Early work influenced by Manet and Impressionism, Gauguin's Synthetist theories, Japanese prints, fin-de-siècle tendencies generally. Frequenting Symbolist circles (Mallarmé, etc.). Style mainly formed by mid-90s, though brighter, airier approach after 1900; had early success. Subjects: chiefly intimate interiors, also Parisian scenes, theatre designs, public and private decorative commissions. Worked Paris.

"It is not while I am doing this or that, 'that I consider the quality of my actions (you have only to think of my diffidence and my character). Whatever I have the happiness to be working at, it is because there is an idea in me in which I have faith. As to the quality of the result, I do not worry myself." (1898)

PIERRE BONNARD (1867-1947) - Painter. Born France. 1889-99 one of the Nabis; influenced by Gauguin, Degas, Japanese prints and art Nouveau; painted mainly intimate interiors, Parisian scenes, decorative panels. After 1900 rather dark tonality became brighter, flat areas broken up in a way reminiscent of Impressionism but more subjective in colour and design. Developed the intimate domestic subject on a grander scale. Theme of the nude dates from late 90's; most landscapes from 1900. After 1910 mainly summers in Seine valley (Vernon), winters in the Midi (St Tropez, Le Cannet).

"The unlikely is often the very truth."

"Its faults are often what give a picture life."

HENRI MATISSE (1869-1954) - Painter and sculptor. Born France. Early work in variable Post-impressionist style. 1899 first sculpture. 1904 influenced by Neo-impressionism. 1905 established leader of the Fauve group. Cézanne's influence increasingly important, also interest in decorative pattern. 1908 Notes of a Painter. c. 1913-17 work reflected Nabist discoveries. c. 1918-c.1926 softer, more naturalistic phase. From late 1920s more radical formal simplifications. Mid 1940s first papiers découpés. From 1904 worked partly in or near Paris, partly South of France; from 1920s mainly in or near Nice.

"A work of art must carry in itself its complete meaning and impose it upon the beholder even before he can identify the subject matter. When I see the Giotto frescos at Padua I do not trouble to recognise which scene of the life of Christ I have before me, but immediately perceive the feeling that radiates from it and is instinct in the composition in every line and colour. The title only confirms my impression." (1908)

PABLO PICASSO (b. 1881) - Painter and sculptor. Born Spain 1895-1904 Barcelona and Madrid; participated in fin-de-siècle Catalan modernist movement. 1900 visited Paris, lived there 1904-45, from 1945 mainly South of France. 1901-4 'Blue Period': melancholy reflections on life and victims of society. 1905-7 pink and grey paintings: circus themes, harlequins. 1906-9 African sculpture and Cézanne stimulated development of Cubism (evolved 1908-14 with Braque). 1910-12 Analytical Cubism. 1912 first collages, Synthetic Cubism. 1915 without abandoning Cubism began working in various styles concurrently. 1917-21 ballet designs for Diaghilev. 1920s monumental classicising figures, anatomically distorted near-Surrealist works. 1930s increasingly numerous sculptures, also graphics, e.g. Minotaur series, protests against Fascism in Spain. 1950s variations on paintings by Velasquez, Delacroix, etc.

"I deal with paintings as I deal with things, I paint a window just as I look out of a window. If an open window looks wrong in a picture, I draw the curtain and shut it, just as I would in my own room. In painting, as in life, you must act directly." (1935)

GEORGES BRAQUE (1882-1963) - Painter and sculptor. Born France. 1905-7 Fauve period. 1907 met Picasso, joint work on Cubism 1908-14. 1907-9 simple geometricised forms under influence of Cézanne developing into Analytical Cubism 1910. 1912 first papiers collés, Synthetic Cubist phase. From 1918 personal, more sensuous and spatial Cubist-based style, principally still-life, also figure compositions and landscapes. 1947