



WALK THROUGH CUBIST EUROPE



Jointly designed event highlighting one of the truly European cultural styles, the Cubism, that has been influencing cultural world for more than one hundred years...

Embassy of the Czech Republic,
Beijing, China, 1 July 2022

Why Cubism? Because it was born in Europe!



- Cubism is a style of painting that was developed in the early 1900s. Cubist paintings show objects from many angles at once. Two main artists, Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, developed Cubism. They believed that painters should not just present realistic views of subjects. Instead, they wanted to show every part of the whole subject.
- Picasso painted *Les Femmes d'Alger* (O.J. no. O) (The Young Ladies of Algiers) in 1907. It is called the first Cubist painting. Cubism did not get its name until about a year later, however. After viewing one of Braque's paintings, an art critic said that it looked like it was made up of cubes. This led to the label of Cubism. The new style forever changed the way that people thought about painting. It influenced other art forms as well.
- In early Cubist paintings the artists broke down objects into such basic geometric shapes as cubes, spheres, cylinders, and cones. The artists used the shapes to show many sides of the original object. After the initial phase Cubism continued to develop.
- The Cubists were influenced by several different art forms, including African masks, which have exaggerated features. Egyptian paintings, which show more than one point of view, also inspired the Cubists. The paintings of Paul Cézanne were another influence. Cézanne often simplified objects to their basic shapes.
- Cubists in turn influenced other painters, who began to imitate Picasso and Braque. Cubism also affected other forms of art and design. Many artists, including Picasso, began making Cubist sculptures. They broke down objects into shapes as painters did in Cubist paintings. Architects used the ideas of Cubism to design buildings. Many writers also began using Cubist ideas to make new kinds of poetry. Even clothing designers started making clothes that looked like Cubist paintings. Although the original movement had ended by about 1919, Cubism is still one of the best-known art forms today.

From Britannica/Kids

Why Cubism?
Because it is fun – and we need fun!



Why Cubism?

Because it looks on things from different angles – and that is what we are trying to do, too!



Why Cubism? Because...

ŠKODA Auto

our main sponsor



Inspiration for ŠKODA AUTO Design has always been driven by Czech culture and architectural heritage as well as Czech crystal glass art. Cubism is also reflected in the shapes and lines of ŠKODA cars and its details. Great signs of this approach can be found for example in ŠKODA Superb and ŠKODA Kodiaq design elements.

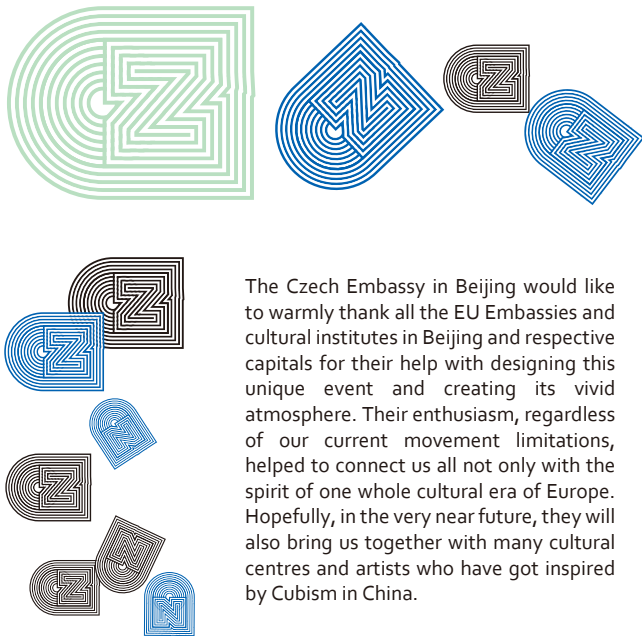


... was already making cars in the Cubist times!



Why Cubism? Because...

... it brings us all together !



The Czech Embassy in Beijing would like to warmly thank all the EU Embassies and cultural institutes in Beijing and respective capitals for their help with designing this unique event and creating its vivid atmosphere. Their enthusiasm, regardless of our current movement limitations, helped to connect us all not only with the spirit of one whole cultural era of Europe. Hopefully, in the very near future, they will also bring us together with many cultural centres and artists who have got inspired by Cubism in China.



Reproductions of cubist paintings and architecture photographs provided by the following Embassies in Beijing:

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Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
Embassy of the Czech Republic



The film *Picassos Äventyr* by the Swedish Director Tage Danielsson, provided by the Embassy of Sweden in Beijing



Fashion models created by the designers of CCC – Czech-China Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing



Czech China Contemporary
中建当代美术馆



Czech Cubism in Music Documentary Film by Pavel Voráček, presented by Poultry in Motion Films, Prague



Cubist furniture and ceramics by the Czech company Modernista, provided by Coznap Beijing

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Fotógrafo:
Fernando Maquiera



La guitarra (The Guitar), 1918

Juan Gris (1887 – 1927) - was a Spanish painter born in Madrid who lived and worked in France for most of his active period. He is recognised along with P. Picasso, G. Braque, and F. Léger as one of the four major figures in Cubism. Gris contributed to the development of Synthetic Cubism – a later phase of Cubism that emphasised the flat quality of the image. His style was characterised by the structured geometric compositions that presented fragmented object and overlapping planes.

**Nature morte cubiste (Cubist Still Life),
ca 1917**

María Blanchard
(1881 – 1932)
was a Spanish
painter. She was
known for
developing a
unique style of
Cubism. In 1916,
before the end of
the war,
Blanchard
moved to Paris,
where she would
spend the rest of
her life. There,
she met many
Cubist artists and
began
developing her
own style of
Cubism. She
became a close
friend with Juan
Gris who heavily
influenced her
work.





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Gallery,
Kobilarna
Lipica

Brez naslova (No title), 1967

Brez naslova (No title), 1969

August Černigoj (1898 – 1985) – is one of the leading figures of the Slovenian historical avant-garde. He spent the last five years of his life in Lipica. The collection in the Gallery of August Černigoj in Lipica consists of over 1,400 works of art. His motives include figural representations, objects, and pure abstract works. He combined various elements and symbols and carved them into small formats. He was faithful to Constructivism and its principles which became his main direction after he completed his studies in the renowned Bauhaus School in Weimar.





Napis pod razglednicami – fotografijami: kostumske in karakterne študije za predstave Šentjakobskega Ljudskega odra, pomlad-poletje 1926

Inscription under postcards – photographs: costume and character studies for the performances of the Šentjakob People's St



August Černigoj





Slovenská
národná
galéria



Vynášanie moreny (Burning of Morena), 1946

Vincent Hložník (1919 – 1997) – was a Slovak painter, illustrator, sculptor, and art teacher. In his early artistic work, he was influenced by Picasso and Expressionism; from the 1950s, he was heading towards Neo-surrealism and abstraction. Hložník drew inspiration from his dreams and intellectual background but also from everyday life. Throughout his nearly 60-year career, he obtained recognition internationally. At the 1958 Venice Biennale, he was one of three artists to receive an award from the David E. Bright Foundation of Los Angeles. It was the first time in the history of the Biennale that an American organization had presented an award for which artists of any country could be eligible.



Plachetnice (Sailboats), 1936

Ester Šimerová-Martinčeková (1909 – 2005) – was a painter, artist, set designer, and representative of modern Slovak art. She was often called the First lady of Slovak painting. In addition to painting, she also designed theatrical costumes for Nová Scéna in Bratislava.

Matka (Mother), 1933

Mikuláš Galanda (1895 – 1938) - was a painter and illustrator who was, along with L. Fulla one of the most important pioneers and propagators of modern Slovak art. In 1930, Fulla and Galanda decided to express their opinions on the contemporary art not only in their artistic work but also in words. They formulated and published the manifesto of modern painting, *Súkromné listy* (*Private letters*).

His work is recognized internationally. At the 1937 Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne in Paris, Galanda won a Silver Medal for inventive art genre – illustrations and book designs.





Balóny (Balloons) 1930

Drak (Kite), 1931



Ľudovít Fulla (1902 – 1980) - was a Slovak painter, graphic artist, illustrator, stage designer, and art teacher. He is considered one of the most important figures of Slovak creative art in the 20th century. His style is characterised by a unique "poetry of the image" relying on surface and decoration, a synthesis of rational and emotional elements, brilliant colour, knowledge of folk art, East Slavonic iconography, and world Modernism.



Slovenská
národná
galéria



Deti pri mori (Children at the Sea), 1929



**Țărancă cu ouă
(Peasant with
eggs), 1930**

Marcel Hermann Iancu (also known as **Marcel Janco**) was a Romanian and Israeli visual artist, architect and art theorist. He was the co-inventor of Dadaism and a leading exponent of Constructivism in Eastern Europe. Admired by his contemporaries on the avant-garde scene, Marcel Janco is mentioned or portrayed in several works by Romanian authors.



***Copyright: The National Museum of Art of Romania,
Gallery of Modern Romanian Art***

Max Hermann Maxy (also known as **M. H. Maxy**, born **Max Herman**) was a Romanian painter, art professor, scenographer, and professor of German-Jewish descent. He fought in World War I, an experience which significantly influenced his painting. His works are shown in many Romanian art exhibits in Bucharest, Prague, Moscow, Berlin, Warsaw, Budapest, Sofia, Belgrade, Athens, Cairo, Damascus, and Istanbul.



Nud cu văl (Nude with a veil), 1922

Copyright: Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso Museum

Promontory Head Indigo Seas of Ossian Rose
Orange, 1916





Procissão Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi Procession), 1913

Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso (1887 – 1918) - belonged to the first generation of Portuguese modernist painters. His early works were stylistically close to Impressionism, later works were influenced by Cubism, Futurism and even Dadaism. His style is aggressive and vivid both in form and colour and his works may seem random or chaotic in their compositional structure at first sight but are clearly defined and balanced. In 1913 he integrated the famous exhibition Armory Show in New York and exhibited in Galeria Der Sturm, in Berlin. Amadeo was among the most commercially successful exhibitors at the Armory Show, as he sold seven of the eight works he showed there.



Dwie głowy (Two Heads), 1920

Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (1885 – 1939) commonly known as Witkacy, was a Polish writer, painter, philosopher, theorist, playwright, novelist, and photographer, active before World War I and during the interwar period. In fine arts he is mainly known for portrait painting.





**Natura morta con
porta orologio (Still
Life with Clockcase),
1915**

Giorgio Morandi –
(1890 – 1964) - was an
Italian painter and
printmaker who
specialised in still life.
His paintings are noted
for their tonal subtlety in
depicting apparently
simple subjects, which
were limited mainly to
vases, bottles, bowls,
flowers, and landscapes.
Through his simple and
repetitive motifs and
economical use of
colour, value, and
surface, Morandi
became a prescient and
important forerunner of
Minimalism.



Materia, 1912

Umberto Boccioni

(1882 – 1916) – was the leading artist of Italian Futurism. During his short life, he produced some of the movement's iconic paintings and sculptures, capturing the colour and dynamism of modern life in a style he theorised and defended in manifestos, books, and articles. In late 1911 he encountered Cubist art on a trip to Paris. His interest in Cubism is apparent in a few pieces of his work. *Materia* shows the artist's mother seated on the balcony of her apartment, in Milan.



Copyright: Collezione Mattioli

La Galleria di Milano (The Galleria in Milan), 1912

Carlo Carrà

(1881 – 1966) - was an Italian painter and a leading figure of the Futurist movement that flourished in Italy during the beginning of the 20th century. He was also influenced by Cubism that he encountered when in Paris (1911), then by the concepts and writings of Marinetti. In addition to his many paintings, he wrote several books concerning art. He taught for many years in the city of Milan. The painting represents the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in Milan, the commercial heart of the city.







Cubist Still Life, 2022

Georgios Tzortzoglou

(1952 -) - a Hungarian-Greek painter, sculptor and musician. In 1976, together with violinist András Szabó, he formed an ensemble called Gépfolklór. From 1986 to 1997, he was a singer in Barbaro.



Giannis (Yiannis) Moralis (1916-2009) - was a Greek artist of Expressionism and Cubism. Studied in Greece, Italy and France, including frescos, mural works and mosaic. From 1947 Moralis taught at the Athens School of Fine Arts until his retirement in 1983. In 1949 he formed, with other artists the "Armos" art group. From the 1970s, he moved from the realistic depictions of the human form of his earlier works towards a geometric stylisation incorporating curves.



Erotiko (Erotics), 1982



Fotografie Ölgemälde von Eva Schwimmer (Photography Oil Painting by Eva Schwimmer)



Gerda Schimpf – (1913-2014), photographer. At a young age, close friends with painter Max Schwimmer; later she lived in with Eva Schwimmer (the main figure in her work and the painter's ex-wife). Worked for various photo studios, most recently at AEG as a technical photographer. Master examination at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. In 1946, opening of her own photo studio. From 1959-1978, teacher for photography at the Berlin Lette-Verein.

Copyright: Gerda Schimpf Fotoarchiv



Drei junge Exoten (Three Young Exotics), 1938

Copyright: Bildarchiv Foto Marburg



Bühnenlandschaft (Stage Scenery), 1922

Paul Klee (1879-1940) - German painter and graphic artist, whose versatile work is assigned to Expressionism, Constructivism, Cubism, Primitivism and Surrealism. Klee was in close contact with the editorial team *Der Blaue Reiter* and showed graphic works at their second exhibition in 1912. Like his friend, the Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky, Klee taught at the Bauhaus in Weimar from 1921 and later in Dessau. From 1931, he was a professor at the Düsseldorf Art Academy. After the National Socialists seized power, he was dismissed and went back to Bern, where he produced an extensive late work in the last few years from 1934, despite his serious illness. Paul Klee is one of the most important visual artists of classical modernism of the 20th century.



L'équipe de Cardiff (The Cardiff Team), 1913 - 1914

Robert Delaunay
(1885 – 1941) -
was a French artist
who, with his wife
Sonia Delaunay
and others,
co-founded the
Orphism art
movement, noted
for its use of
strong colours and
geometric shapes.
His later works
were more
abstract. His key
influence related
to bold use of
colour and a clear
love of
experimentation
with both depth
and tone.







The Bells, 1914

Ilmari Aalto (1891 – 1934) was a Finnish painter famous for his still lifes, landscapes and portraits. Having begun with Expressionism he also experimented with Cubism after seeing an Edvard Munch exhibition in Helsinki in 1914. After his trips to Paris in the 1920s, Aalto began to use more colors, stronger brush strokes and more realistic expression.

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KUBISM-KONSTRUKTIVISM

EESTI KUNSTIS

КУБИЗМ-КОНСТРУКТИВИЗМ В ЭСТОНСКОМ ИСКУССТВЕ





EESTI KUNSTIMUUSEUM



ART MUSEUM OF ESTONIA

**Exhibition poster Cubism-Constructivism in Estonian Art. 1983
Art Museum of Estonia**

Leonhard Lapin (1947–2022) – also known under the pseudonym Albert Trapež, was an Estonian architect, artist, architecture historian, and poet. Emeritus Professor at Estonian Academy of Arts, Lapin was a forerunner of the avant-garde movement in Estonia and influenced Estonian art and architecture through his works and writings during the postwar 20th century. As an artist, he created graphics, paintings, performances, happenings and published several articles, books, and poetry collections. Lapin influenced many students as a teacher; he regarded architecture and art mainly as a spiritual activity.

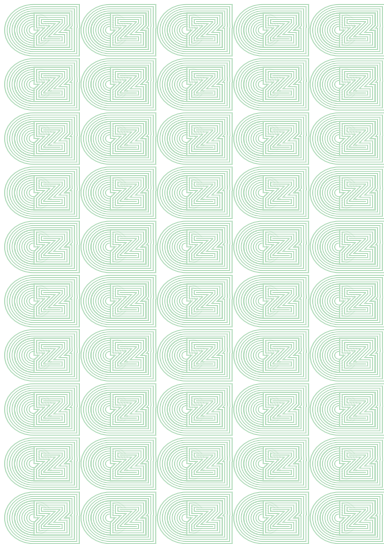


**MORAVSKÁ
GALERIE**

Malířka v ateliéru (Painter in Studio), 1931

František Janoušek (1890 – 1943) - was a Czech Surrealist. After finishing his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, he exhibited his work regularly at the Mánes Society, one of the Prague's most important associations.

Janoušek abandoned his initial Cubist style in favour of a more fantastical art. He took part in the exhibition Poetry 1932, and although he did not formally belong to the Surrealist group in Prague, he continued to expand on the Surrealist theme independent of any group until the end of his life.





Dvě ženy (Two Women), 1913

Emil Filla – (1882 – 1953) – was an important Czech Cubist whose oeuvre also contains Impressionist and Expressionist works as well as the landscape painting of his later years. Filla studied at the Academy of Fine Art in Prague and began his career as an adept of the art of Edvard Munch.

His extensive travel throughout Europe, study of the old masters, such as Giotto, Tintoretto and El Greco, and fervid interest in the works of George Braque, Juan Gris and Pablo Picasso in Paris stoked his thirst for experimentation and ultimately led him to Cubism. He remained loyal to the latter even after other leading exponents had abandoned it.

**MORAVSKÁ
GALERIE**

Kubistická kompozice (Cubist Composition), 1927





U nás na dvoře (In Our Yard), 1910

Bohumil Kubišta – (1884 – 1918) - was a Czech painter and art critic, one of the founders of Czech modern painting. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague but left in 1906 to study at the Reale Istituto di Belle Arti in Florence. Kubišta came to his individual expression gradually, at first, he was influenced by the work of Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne. His later style (approximately from 1911) was strongly influenced by Expressionism and Cubism. Together with Emil Filla he established the artistic group Osma in 1906 or 1907. Expressionist elements, particularly his use of colour but also his subject matter, immediately distinguish Kubišta's Cubist work from founding Paris Cubists.

**MORAVSKÁ
GALERIE**



Oběšenec (Hanged), 1915



Vlak v horách (Train in the
Mountains), 1913





Photos: Miriam Diopova, 2022

Iconic department store house **Dům u Černé Matky Boží** (Black Madonna House – according to its traditional house sign of the black madonna) at the corner of the Ovocný trh and Celetná street, Prague – Old Town district. Built in 1912 in the Cubist style designed by Josef Gočár, renovated in 2002 – 2003.



Staircase inside the **Dům u Černé Matky Boží**, Prague



Photos: Miriam Diopová, 2022





Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006

Grand Café Orient inside the **Dům u Černé Matky Boží**,
Prague – re-decorated in the Cubist style and
re-opened in 2005.
It is said to be the only Cubist café in the world.





Villa Kovařovic on
the Vltava river
right bank, Prague
– Nové Město
district. Designed
by Josef Chochol,
built in 1913 by
Bedřich Kovařovic.

Photo: Miriam Diopová, 2022

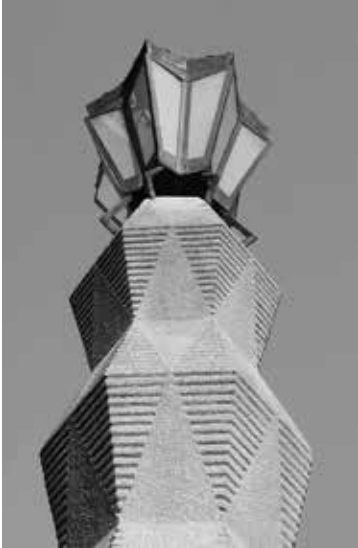


Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006



Apartment house
in **Neklanova**
street No. 98,
Prague – Nusle
district. Designed
by Josef Chochol,
built in 1913 –
1914.





Cubist street lamp in Prague 1, near Jungmanovo square – another icon of cubist architecture in the Czech Republic. Designed by the Czech artist Emil Králíček in 1913.

Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006

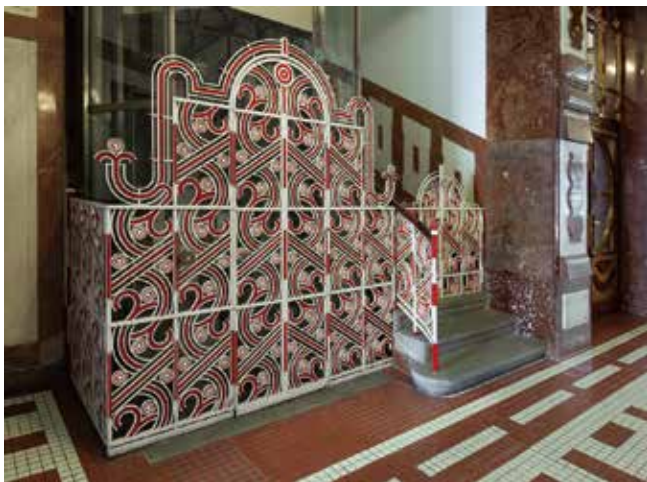


Legiobanka (Bank of the Czechoslovak legions) in Prague – Old Town district. Designed by Josef Gočár in rondo-cubist style, built in 1921 – 1923.



Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006





Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006

Interior of **Legiobanka** in Prague
in rondo-cubist or according to
some experts in art-déco style.



Riaditeľstvo štátnych dráh, Bratislava
(Directorship of the state railways, Bratislava),
Architects: Alois Balán, Jiří Grossmann
Project: 1924 – 1925
Implementation: 1925 – 1927





Copyright: Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences



Cubist villa in **Libodřice** near Prague. Designed by Josef Gočár, built in 1912 -1914.



Photos: Ester Havlová, 2006



Rondo-cubist or according to other experts art-déco style façade of a house in Vodičkova street No. 31 with the famous confectioner's **U Myšáka** (At MrMouse's), Prague –Nové Město district. House from 1881 was re-decorated by Josef Gočár in 1921-22.



Photo: Ester Havlová, 2006

Another iconic
Cubist building
– the **Adria
Palace**, in
Prague – Nové
Město district.
Designed by
Josef Zasche
and Pavel
Janák, built in
1925.



Photo: Miriam Diopová, 2022



*Photo:
Miriam
Diopová,
2022*

Photo: Ester Havlová, 2006



Villa in the **Tychonova** street No. 4, Prague – Hradčany district, with the Cubist style interior staircase. Designed by Josef Gočár, built in 1911 – 1913.





Copyright: Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences



**Anatomický ústav Lekárskej fakulty Univerzity
Komenského, Bratislava**
(Institute of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine,
Comenius University, Bratislava)

Architect: Klement Šilinger
Builder: F. Malota
Project: 1925
Implementation: 1926 – 1927



Trojďům (Trio House) on the Rašínovo embankment of the Vltava river, Prague – Podskalí. Designed by Josef Chochol, built in 1912 – 1913.



Photos: Miriam Diopová, 2022





Special thanks go to Michaela Kudlačáková, a spouse of our Slovak diplomatic colleague, who had voluntarily become our co-curator and the wisdom of all preparations for this event. Míšo - děkujeme!

Sponsored by:

