

CrossTalk

March CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

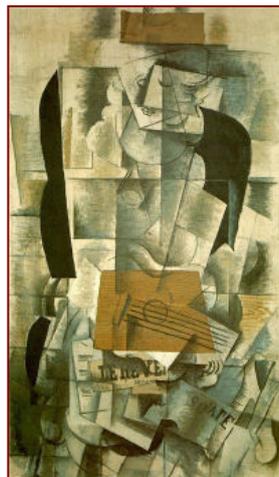
CUBISM

The search for Reality! From the very beginning of human evolution philosophers, religious thinkers, scientists, healers and many others have been searching for ways to understand the environments we live in and our place within them. It has been nothing less than a search for the meaning of life itself! From the very first attempts to represent life (and thus understand and control it) on cave walls, artists have been among the **foremost** seekers of the **ultimate** answer.

Through the ages **representational** art has experienced many changes in style but the last century saw rapid and **unprecedented** developments in the way artists **perceived** and represented the world around them, and the world within themselves.

The Renaissance artists began to represent their subjects in 3 dimensions and realistic perspectives with **astonishing** accuracy. Their paintings reflected a single moment in time and their subjects appeared "real". However accurate this style of painting may be, does it convey to us the **complete** "reality" of the artists' subject?

Everything exists not only in 3 dimensional space, but also in time. Is an artist representing the "reality" of something if he/she only **depicts** a single moment of its existence? Does a single photograph of someone tell you very much about their passage through time from one moment to the next?



Woman with Guitar-1913
Georges Braque

This space-time-reality issue in painting was one of the problems tackled by the Cubists close to 100 years ago. If we move around an object, above it, under it, or if the object itself moves, we get another, equally **valid**, view of it. Which view is the more "realistic" representation? Clearly, *all* views must be as they are of the same object!

Here's a test. You see this eye? This is one view of it...



Detail from
Picasso's
"Girl with
Dark Hair"

...Now go to page 3...

...This is some of the **rational** the cubists Picasso, Braque, Juan Gris and others used early in the 20th century. Now, the next time you look at a painting by Picasso with an ear in one place and a nose seemingly out of place somewhere else, think of TIME as you look at the painting and you may just get it!

Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

foremost 最も初期の
unprecedented 空前の
depicts 描く

ultimate 究極の
perceived 知覚した
valid 確かな

representational 具象の
astonishing 驚くばかりの
rational 合理性

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Well, Spring is in the air again and with it's arrival at this time each year most of us feel ready for a new beginning. We are adding two new lessons to our Cosmopolitan program: acting techniques in English with Iain in addition to Magic, and William will be Drumming up a storm with "Drumming in English" in addition to his Guitar classes. Check out the details on P3, or ask Junko about these classes at the office.

Junko Says: The other day I saw an animal I thought was a small dog sitting by itself in a bicycle basket with its paws dangling over the handlebars of the bike. It had long hair and seemed very relaxed as it waited patiently for its master to return. It was not afraid or even concerned as I stood nearby looking at it. Suddenly I realized that this "dog" was not a dog at all. It was a cat! And yet its behaviour was nothing like a usual cat. It made me think just how much we (and animals) can be influenced to become unique or special merely by the way we are brought up (or trained).



Natacha Says: Whoopi! Spring has come! Isn't it the best season in Japan? I wonder where the most beautiful places to see cherry blossoms are? Can someone help me? I hope that you will be able to tell me more. I hope to go for a picnic on top of Matsuyama Castle hill but I guess the most popular place is Dogo park. Where do you recommend I should to go?



Greg Says: Last month was my daughter's first "piano recital". Children have no feelings of nervousness what-so-ever. They just get up and do whatever it is they have to do. On the other hand, we as adults seem to contemplate the 'what if's' of the situation before we do it and as such, spend a long time with a belly full of butterflies. Can you imagine the new ventures we would attempt if we as adults held that same attitude of 'just get up and do it' without any fear of failure what-so-ever.



Iain Says: Kyoko and I have just returned from an exciting 3-week trip to the U.S. As always, I had trouble adjusting to the ENORMOUS portions of food that are served at restaurants. We eventually decided to just order one thing and share it. I was also able to meet my nephew and niece. We arrived just a few weeks after my sister had her second child, Julia. She is adorable! And her son, Myles is cute also! He could say a few words including "DUDE"! Maybe he will grow up to be a surfer!!



Marita Says: Recently, I experienced that computers are still subject to Murphy's Law; all that could go wrong went wrong. I dare say that I know how to press "any key", but what do you do when the information you need is hidden in a sort of external black box, that doesn't respond to you in any way? From this experience I have learnt how good it can feel to grip a book, turn the pages and find the information I am looking for.



Yuka Says: Hello, everyone! It's good the cold winter has gone and the warm season has arrived. It's the best time to enjoy outdoor activities, isn't it? Unfortunately I have hey fever so I ride an exercise bike inside. I go to the gym as often as possible. I feel refreshed after doing some exercise. Now I can understand why aerobics and yoga are so popular among women. They feel great and they may be able to lose some weight also!



A Word From You

Hiroko Kato translates to improve her English:

I love the Harry Potter series and I'm enjoying translating "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" little by little. At first I translate English to Japanese. After that I read the book in Japanese, and compare that with my translation. I learn how to express the same thought but with different words. It is so exciting because, like the proverb says: "So many men, so many minds." Well, I'm going on with it very slowly. I wonder when my work will be finished!



Detail from Picasso's "Girl with Dark Hair"

THE EYE...Here it is again, but by the time it took you to come to this page, it has changed position, colour and shape! Which, then, is the more accurate representation of the eye, this one or the one on page 1? As both views are of the same eye, both must be an accurate representation of the eye..., but they look different because movement and time have changed our view of this eye... (now, back to page 1...)

Notice Board

We have opened two new classes at Crossroads for the Cosmopolitan causes. They are:

DRAMA AND DRUMS!



English Through Drama

Iain has just started Cosmopolitan English Drama lessons using some of the methods we have developed at Crossroads for our regular Drama English classes. Iain is not only a magician; he has studied Drama and has even performed in the past! This is going to be a real fun and easy way to study English.

DRUMMING UP SOME ENGLISH!
William is not only a great teacher with the guitar, he can also teach Englishing using drums! We have just started this new lesson and it is really interesting.



Let's Drum Up Some English!

REMINDER

Don't forget to spread the word about our Spring Campaign starting next month. Lots of free gifts and discounts....

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Go here for a pretty interesting site on Cubism:
<http://www.eyeconart.net/history/cubism.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x /week

MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

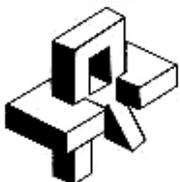
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with William
Yoga with Natacha
Guitar with William
"Cooking in English" with Natacha
"Magic in English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Drumming with William

GERMAN with Marita
SPANISH with Leo
RUSSIAN with Natasha
FRENCH with Bam & Natacha
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim



NETLESSONS:
group or private



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