

## **Happy New Year 2008!**

Hello everybody! Welcome back to my art classes. I am so happy I see you again in the New Year. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope that all your dreams come true in 2008. I hope that the New Year would be brimming with joy and happiness for you and for all those who you love.

## **Congratulations to Golar!**

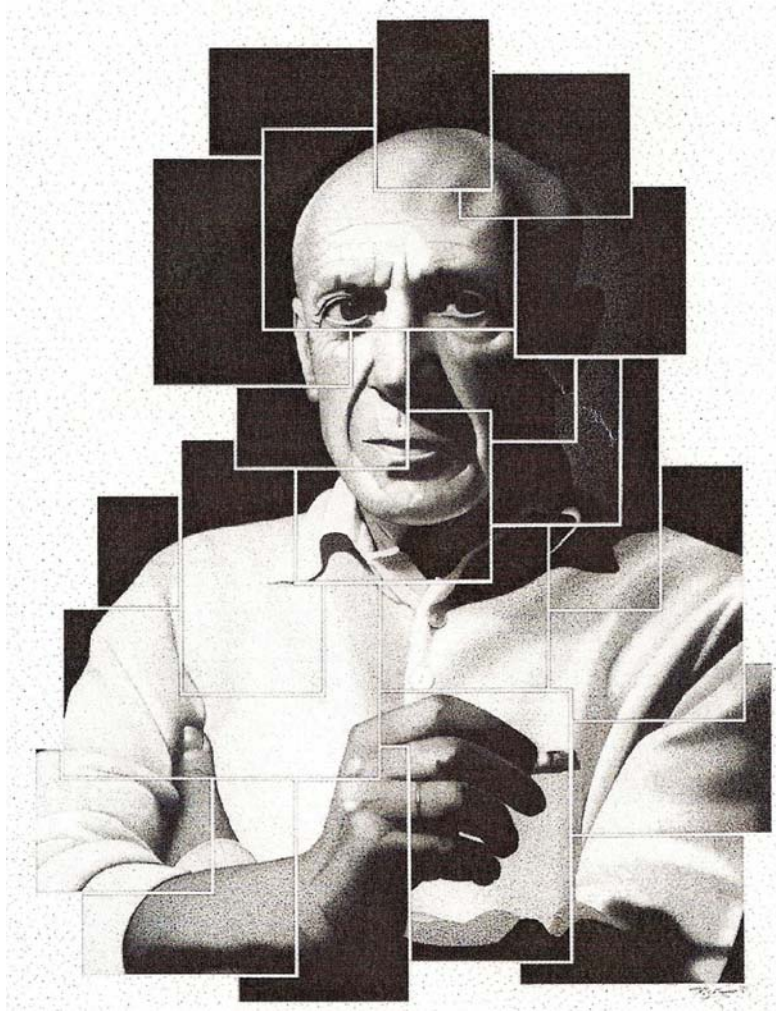
Another congratulation should go to Golar. She now has a lovely little sister. We all have the best wishes for her and her family.

## **Good news!**

We are having an exhibition of students' works for all to attend and see how beautifully you can paint. You may also put up some of your paintings for sale if you like. The exhibition will be sometime between March and mid April depending on the availability of the space we need to have. Each student must present three works (framed) to be able to attend the exhibition. Works should be submitted to me before March 12.

## **Who knows Picasso?**

For this month, Kendall has prepared the enclosed article about Picasso and his works. Thank you Kendall! You did a great job! I am sure all will enjoy reading and learning about Picasso. We will discuss Picasso and his works in the next session of our class.



**Picasso, Pablo** (1881 - 1973), was the dominant figure in the art of the 1900's. Although his paintings are his best-known works, Picasso also produced sculptures, drawings, prints, and ceramics. He was highly imaginative and original, borrowing from historical examples and creating new styles. Picasso not only created enduring works of art but also expanded our definition of what art could be. His art was very influential among artists of his time as well as among later artists.

**Early career.** Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain. His earliest works show that he was technically skilled in drawing and painting by the age of fifteen. In the late 1890's, the young painter became involved with a group of artists and intellectuals in Barcelona. He made his first trip to Paris, then the centre of painting, in 1900. About this time, Picasso was experimenting with a number of established styles, including impressionism, pointillism, and symbolism, three important art movements of the late 1800's.

Picasso's first original style has been called the Blue Period (1901 - 1904). The paintings of this period evoke feelings of sadness and alienation through the depiction of forlorn people in shades of blue. *The Old Guitarist* (1903), a painting from the Blue Period follows:



In 1904, Picasso moved to France, where he lived until his death. He turned to the theme of the circus, painting in a style that was warmer in color and more optimistic in mood than the Blue Period. This style became known as the Rose Period (1904 - 1906) because of the rose shades that characterized the painting. Later, Picasso used these images in works as illustrated below as background for the drop-curtains for plays in Paris.



In 1907, Picasso painted *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. Version O)*, a landmark in art. This picture marked a decisive break with traditional notions of beauty and harmony in art. The five nude female figures in the painting are jagged and distorted. Their mask-like faces reflect Picasso's interest in Iberian and African sculptures. The inspiration of primitive art, first demonstrated in *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. Version O)*, became a major influence in the art of the 1900's. The breakup of the five female figures into planes and sharp edges led to the development of cubism, a style that was pioneered by Picasso and the French painter Georges Braque.

By 1912, Picasso was incorporating pieces of wallpaper, newspaper print, postage stamps, and other materials in his paintings. This type of work, called collage, further called into questions the boundaries between art and reality.

**Later career.** After World War 1 (1914 - 1918), Picasso moved from cubism to a style derived from classical art, characterized by huge and stately figures. By the later 1920's, he had turned to a flat, cubist-related style. In the works, he concentrated mainly on two themes: the artist and model, and the bullfight.

The masterpiece of this period is *Guernica* (1937). This mural painting expresses the terror of the bombing of the town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939).



Following World War II (1939 - 1949), Picasso's work became less political and more gentle in feeling and presentation. He returned to historical examples for inspiration in his paintings. He made several versions of different works by earlier artists. One important series of such paintings represents his interpretation of *Las Meninas*, a painting by Spanish artist Diego Valazquez in 1656. He painted right up to the time of his death in 1973, but some critics thought that it lacked the passion of his earlier works.