Pablo Picasso was born in Málaga, Spain, the son of painter and art teacher José Ruiz. He showed a talent for drawing as a child and entered the Barcelona School of Fine Arts at age 14, receiving his first exhibition in Barcelona in 1900. That year he made his initial trip to Paris, where he settled in 1904.

From café scenes and portraits he moved through the melancholy works of his Blue Period (1901-4) to the lighter-hearted subjects and beige and pink tones of his Rose Period (1904-6) to more extreme experimentation with form and line influenced by ancient art, African sculpture, and art of other cultures and times, exemplified by his watershed painting *Les Desmoiselles d'Avignon* of 1907.

With Georges Braque, he developed Cubism in paintings and collages, in stages characterized as Analytic, then Synthetic. With the seminal innovation of Cubism, his great fame and influence began and grew throughout his life. His Cubist work extended to sculptures, a medium he pursued more thoroughly after contact with Julio Gonzales in the late 1920s.

From the late 1910s through the 1920s, Picasso explored neoclassical idioms. He became involved with the Surrealist movement briefly in the 1930s. In 1932 he received two major exhibitions, at the Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, and the Kunsthaus Zürich. In 1936, deeply affected by the Spanish Civil War, he created *Guernica* (1937), a monumentally scaled indictment of the horrors of war.

In 1939 he received his largest to date exposure in the United States with an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 1933. Another major exhibition of his work occurred in 1955 at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Innumerable exhibitions of his work followed, throughout his life and following his death. His works are in the collection of most museums of modern art.

During the last decades of his life, Picasso lived in Mougins, on the French Riviera. He maintained a studio, producing drawings, paintings, ceramics, prints, and sculpture until his death in 1973.