

Cubic Style Painting with Layered Applique Work

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Abstract

This research paper takes cubic art as an inspiration for the creation of wall painting by using layered appliqué work technique. The main features of cubism are analyzed and the work of famous cubic artist Pablo Picasso is studied which represent poverty, loneliness and despair in most of his artworks. Inspired from Picasso's artwork a wall painting is created in which objects are analyzed, broken up and reconstructed into geometrical shapes which gives the look of abstract art. The material used to create the artwork is waste furnishing fabrics, and the technique used is layered appliqué work which gives a 3D effect. As the main feature of cubic art is multiple perspectives, the data is collected through interview method to know the multiple viewpoints of the artwork. All the interviewees give their own perspective or viewpoint regarding the same painting which clarifies the concept of multiple perspectives.

Keywords: Cubism, art, appliqué work, paintings, Pablo Picasso

1. INTRODUCTION

CUBISM

Cubic art, also known as Cubism, is a modern art that started in the early 20th century and bring revolution in the field of paintings and visual arts. It is the most influential art movement developed by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque in Paris (France) around 1907-1914, Cubism fundamentally changed the way artists represented reality as the objects are depicted from multiple perspective rather than from a single perspective. The different viewpoints of an object are represented at the same time in an abstract form. The objects are analysed, broken up and reassembled in geometrical form instead of natural form. Cubist artists focused on the structure and essence of their subjects. It also introduced collage as a modern art form.

The history of cubism is divided by scholars into two main phases. The first phase is Analytical cubism which remains from 1910- 1912. It focuses on breaking down objects into parts, reconstruct into abstract and intellectual form with limited color palette. The second phase is Synthetic cubism, its time period is from 1912-1914. It introduces collage elements (like newspaper clippings), simpler shapes and have brighter colors and is more decorative. It focuses on textures and patterns. The synthetic cubism focuses on reconstruction of objects rather than deconstruction.

KEY FEATURES OF CUBIST PAINTINGS

- Natural forms are broken down into geometric shapes like cubes, spheres, cones, and other. The focus is on structure, not realism.
- Objects are shown from several angles at once—front, side, top, etc. This creates a more complex and complete understanding of the subject.
- It also includes the viewpoints of several people on single artwork to gain the deeper understanding about how each of them perceive the single object, it can also be called as multiple perspective.
- In earlier cubism colors are often muted and earthy: browns, greys, ochres, greens but in Later Cubism (Synthetic Cubism) brighter, more varied colors are introduced.
- Artists began to include real-world materials like newspaper, fabric, or sheet. This helped emphasize the constructed, rather than illusionistic, nature of the painting.
- Figures and objects are fragmented into abstract form. The result often resembles a puzzle or shattered mirror version of the real world.
- Less emphasis on intricate detail or realism. Emphasis is on form, structure, and concept.
- Shapes and angles often overlap, creating a sense of shifting space. This suggests depth, but not in a traditional perspective.

PABLO PICASSO- cubic art

The famous artist Pablo Picasso born on 25 October 1881 in Malaga, Spain. He moved to Paris at their young age where he started modern art movement and he also co-founded the cubist movement and created thousands of artworks by using drawing, paintings, sculptures, ceramic etc. He died in France at age 91 in 1973 and he left his legacy in artistry. He made significant contributions to Cubism and created many famous artworks that represent different themes and situations in abstract form.

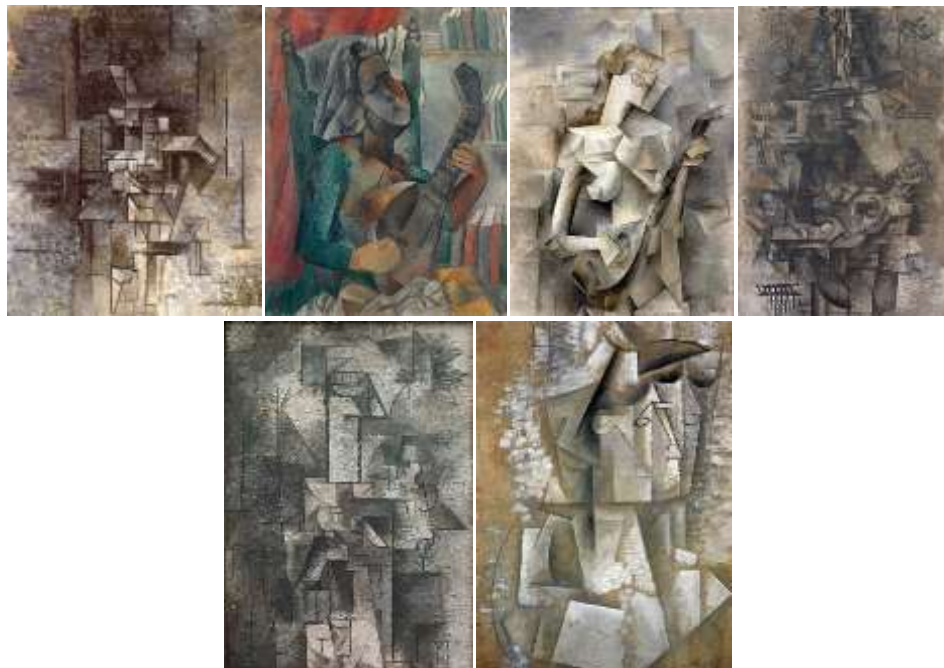
Female figures: Picasso presented women in his paintings as a symbol of emotion, psychology and changing perspective of art rather than a subject of beauty only. Female bodies are broken into geometrical forms which describe the complexity of identity sexuality and a new way of seeing reality.



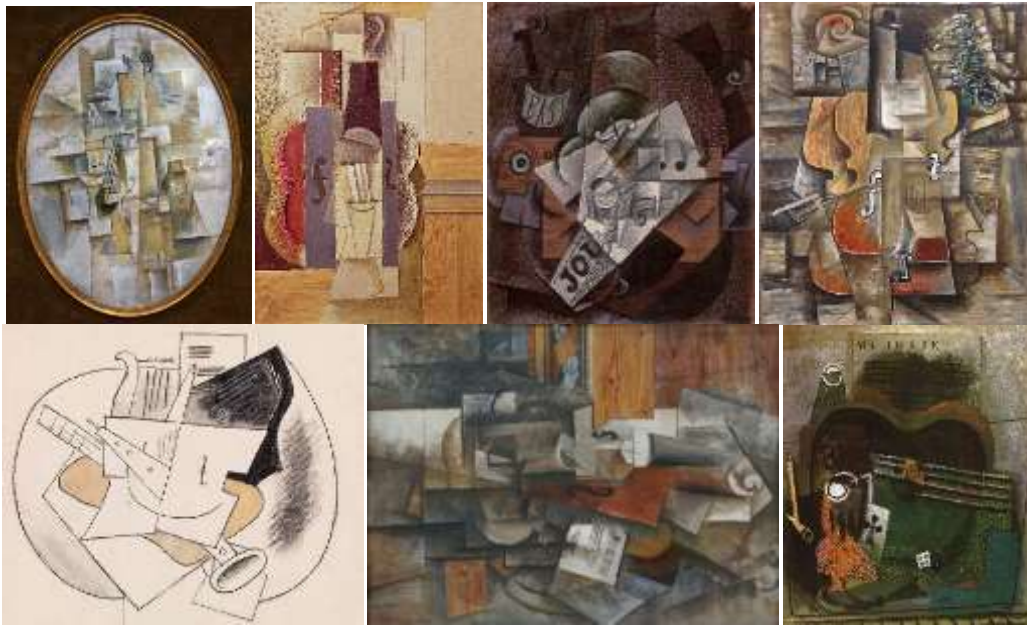
Male figure: Picasso fractures the male figures and deconstructs distorted bodies to explore its inner and outer realities to convey a raw, unapologetic force of masculinity or anxieties of the time. It varies greatly by period, exploring themes of identity, emotion and the human condition.



Female with a violin : Violin is a classical symbol of art and culture. Picasso combines it with women to link femininity and creativity and symbolized a harmony between the human body and music. as the violin produces melody by vibration, the women's form become a kind of visual music expressing rhythm through shapes and colours. In some of the works women reduced to abstracted structure rather than traditional beauty or details, representing that identity and femininity are not just physical but also symbolic.



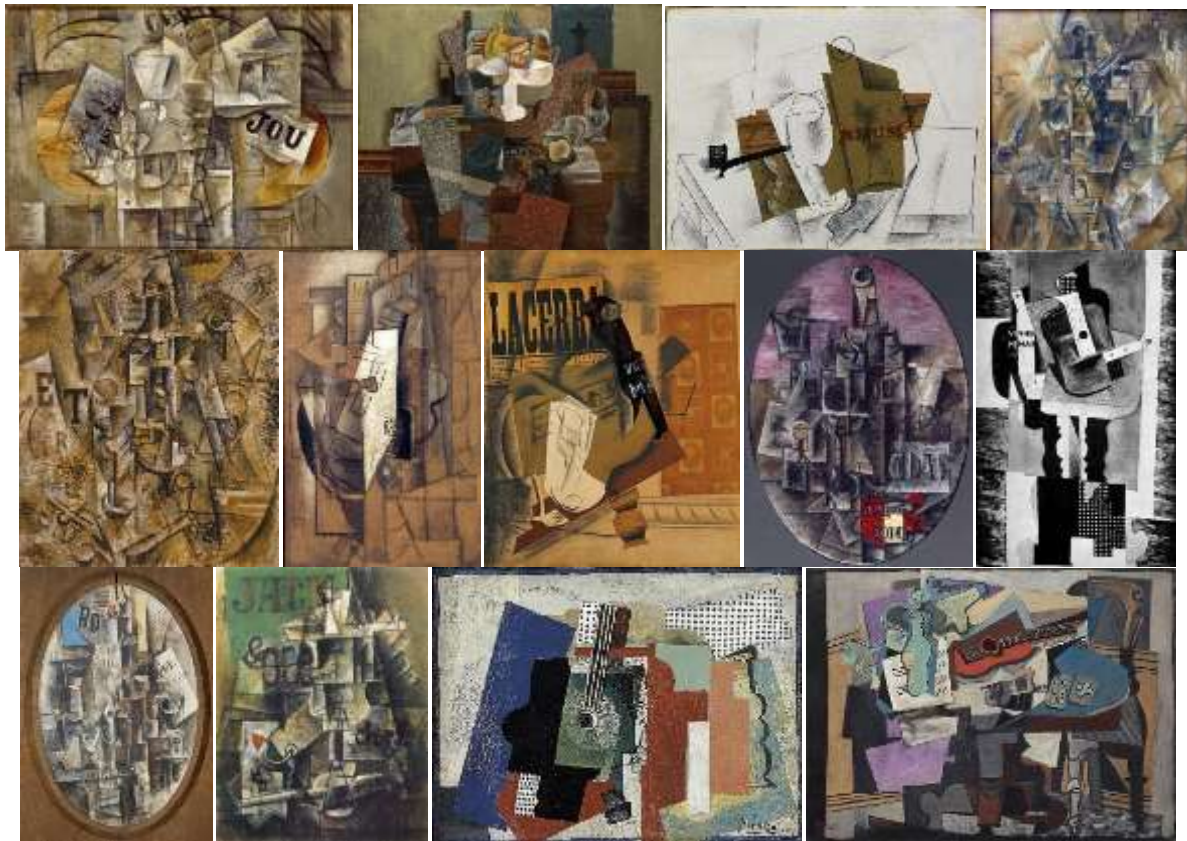
Musical instrument (violins/guitars/mandolins with faces, grapes, bottles etc): Picasso was immersed in musical instruments which were central to Spanish and Parisian cafe life. It reflects his Spanish identity and cultural vibrancy of music, dance, and performance. The violins represent the energy, movement, and fragmentation of music rather than a physical instrument. It explores the concept of music as a whole embodying the fragmented nature of sound to represent rhythm, harmony and creativity.



The poet: ‘The poet’ paintings of Pablo Picasso depict a pyramidal figure composed of rectilinear and curvilinear forms, with a small circle representing eye and broader planes possibly forming a nose and mustaches deconstructed and reassembled through geometrical planes and lines.



Violin, glass, pipe and inkwell, bottle, newspaper, door (still life): The common object of everyday life like pipes, fruits, breads, glass, bottle, violin and newspapers are deconstructed often incorporating elements of collage with real-world materials such as printed chair caning or newspaper clippings into artwork itself to align with the life of ordinary people.



Harlequin (italian commedia): The harlequin paintings of Pablo Picasso depict the character from Italian commedia dell'arte (a traditional form of masked theatre) wearing diamond-patterned colorful costume. Harlequin is a symbol of mystery and playfulness. but Picasso also highlight the sadness or solitude, suggesting the contrast between outward performance and inner emotion.



APPLIQUE WORK

Appliqué is a decorative sewing technique where fabric pieces are attached to a base fabric to create a design or motif. it is a French word meaning "applied," The technique has been used for over 2,500 years across cultures for making clothing items, tents, and quilts—often symbolizing protection, identity, or nature. Quilting also involves stitching layers of fabric with padding. quilting travelled globally through exploration and trade, evolving with local traditions. The migrants brings the art to the US , eventually creating uniquely American quilt forms like Baltimore Album and broderie perse quilts.

Appliqué is a decorative needlework technique in which fabric pieces of various shapes and patterns are sewn or affixed onto a larger base material to create intricate designs or images. Traditionally used in textile arts, appliqué enhances garments, quilts, and other fabric items through hand or machine stitching. While most commonly associated with fabric, the term also extends to similar decorative applications in other materials—for instance, in ceramics, where additional clay elements are applied to a primary piece for ornamental purposes.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

As Cubic art is one of the most influential art movements of the 20th century, its distinctive features—such as geometric abstraction, multiple perspectives, and structural fragmentation—offer a rich source of inspiration. These visual characteristics make it suitable for adaptation into wall paintings using the layered appliqué work technique. Therefore, the study ‘Cubic style of paintings with layered applique work’ explores the combination of Cubic art style with layered appliqué work, proposing this fusion as a preferred approach for creating contemporary textile-based wall art

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To study 20th century cubic art.
- To study about Pablo Picasso’s paintings.
- Experimenting the layered appliqué technique by using upcycling furnishing fabrics.
- Develop a product range: Wall art

3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is limited to textile-based painting using layered appliqué technique, which may not represent the original textures and materials used in traditional Cubist paintings.
- Simplification of motifs might be done as its difficult to obtain similar structures and forms on fabric.
- The variety and availability of suitable fabrics and other appliqué materials may restrict the range of colors, textures, or layering depth in the final artwork.
- The study applies Cubism in the context of wall art, not exploring its integration into other textile forms like garments, furnishings, or installations.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. The paper ‘Analysis of Visual Elements of Cubism In Western Modernist Art’ investigates Cubism within Western modernist art, it focus on the deconstruction and reconstruction of its visual expressive techniques. Cubism, as a pivotal modern art movement challenged traditional artistic conventions and laid the groundwork for contemporary art practices. Despite its historical significance, the visual strategies employed by Cubism—particularly its manipulation of form, perspective, and texture—remain underexplored in the sphere of modern design. Through close examination of Cubist works, this study highlights how techniques such as multiple viewpoints, geometric fragmentation, simplified color palettes, and the integration of materials (e.g., collage) continue to inform and inspire visual communication and design in contemporary art creation.(Jilin Liu, Zhao Liu, Yuhang Zhang, 2024)
2. In the study ‘Cubism And Research Synthesis’ Fernand Léger, a prominent French Cubist, contributed significantly to the evolution of Cubism by introducing bold colors, tubular forms, and

mechanical rhythms reflective of industrial modernity. His unique style, known as Tubism, deconstructed objects into geometric forms to present multiple perspectives simultaneously. This visual methodology parallels the process of research synthesis in fields like clinical and public health research, where systematic reviews and meta-analyses combine findings from multiple studies to offer a holistic understanding of complex issues. Just as Cubism layered viewpoints to challenge traditional representations, research synthesis layers evidence to track the dynamic progression of scientific knowledge. Both disciplines aim to foster broader understanding and dialogue—whether in the art world or in evidence-based decision-making among researchers, clinicians, and policymakers. (Salaam Semaan, 2015)

3. In the paper ‘A Study Of Picasso’s Painting Materials And Techniques In Six Of His Early Portraits’ Six paintings of Pablo Picasso from his early works of 1895 to 1900 were selected by Museu Picasso, Barcelona (representative of Picasso’s formative years) and examined which involved inspection of the palette used by Picasso in his early career. The palette identified in the paintings includes colors like Prussian blue, cobalt blue, ivory black, lead white, natural earths, vermilion, chromium based pigments, and different fillers. Picasso create different shades and tones by using this simple palette. The analytical data interpretation was guided by subsurface imaging (x-ray radiography and infrared reflectography). (Clarimma Sessa, Reyes Jimenes de Grnica, Francesca Rosi, Raffaella Fontana & Jose Francisco Garcia, 2016)
4. ‘Scientific Study Of The Origin Of The Painting From The Early 20th Century Leads To Pablo Picasso’ is a study which examine an old artwork, Red Guitar with scientific approaches to establish its significance. These approaches includes x-rays radiography, x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, infrared fourier transform spectroscopy, raman spectroscopy, and elemental thermal conductivity analysis. The colors found in the artwork are white, black, blue, yellow, green, red, and brown/red, instead of the colors the pigments of lead and iron like chrome yellow, yellow ochre, and red ochre are also found. In the conclusion of this research the artwork is found authentic. (Marica Bakovic, Slobodanka Karapandza, Sajed Mcheik, Ana Pejovic-Milic, 2022)
5. The study ‘Analysis Of Picasso’s Paintings In Cubism Period: A Case Study Of Awenon Maiden (Les Demoiselles D’Avignon)’ analyse the influence of Pablo Picasso’s paintings in cubism period. As Picasso is an important representative of cubism, analysis and research of his specific paintings is done which depict that picasso’s paintings are the starting point of cubism. (Naiyun Fu, 2022)

6. METHODOLOGY

The methodology is term which describes the procedure to be followed while conducting research. This study follows a practice-based and exploratory design approach to reinterpret Cubic art through textile techniques, specifically layered appliqué work. The methodology includes the following 6 stages:

Stage 1: Research and Visual Analysis

Stage 2: Selection of Motif

Stage 3: Material and methods

Stage 4: Design Development

Stage 5: Execution Using Layered Appliqué Work

Stage 6: Visual analysis

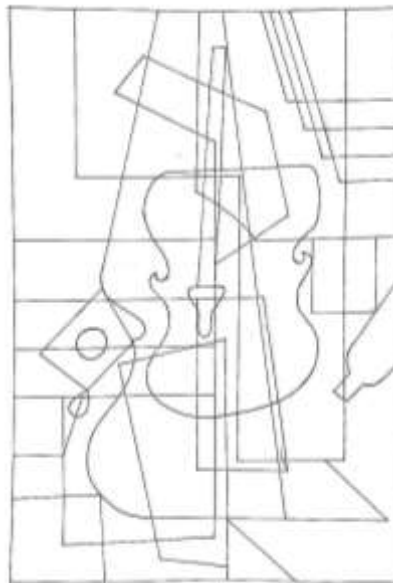
Stage 7: Data collection and analysis

1. Research and Visual Analysis

In the very first step the analysis of the main features of cubic art is done with main focus on geometry, abstraction, colour schemes and composition. As the great contribution to cubic art is done by Pablo Picasso, his work is analysed to identify recurring motifs and elements suitable for textile adaptation.

2. Selection of Motif

After analyzing Pablo Picasso's Cubist paintings, it was found that the objects are broken and recreated in geometrical form and the theme of most of the paintings depict poverty, loneliness, and despair. Inspired by these observations, the motif designed for the layered appliqué work is inspired from still life paintings of Picasso with elements of sadness, reflecting both the structural geometry and the thematic essence of Picasso's.



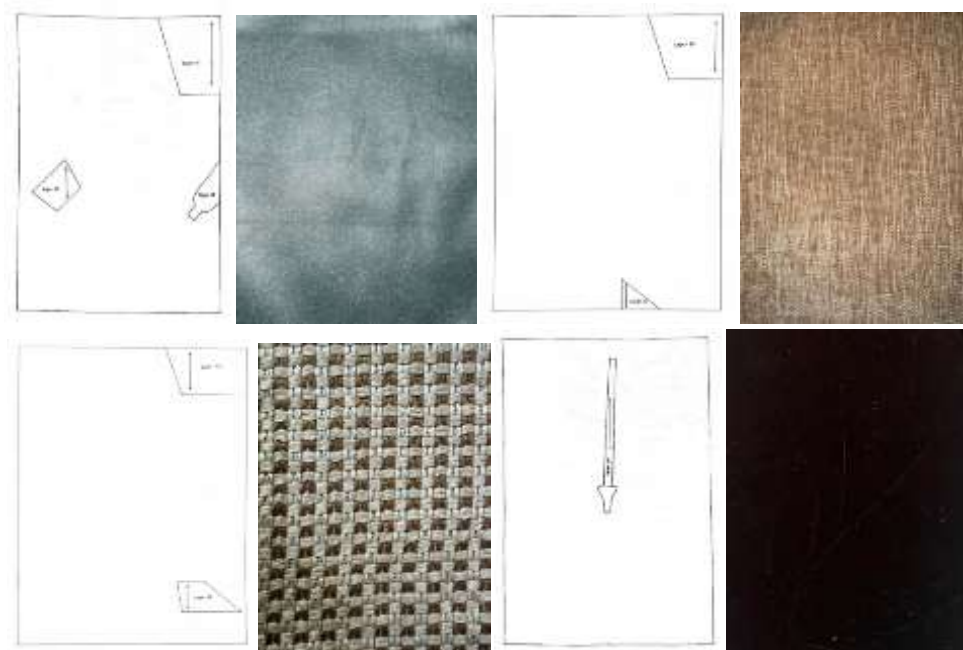
3. Materials and methods

The primary material used in this work is upholstery fabric, selected for its diverse textures and durability. Its tactile quality allows for an effective representation of surface depth, closely resembling the visual texture found in Pablo Picasso's paintings. The technique applied is layered appliqué work, where multiple fabric layers are cut, arranged, and attached to construct the composition. This approach enables the creation of complex forms, color and texture. Various embroidery materials such as metallic threads, sequins, and beads are used to enhance the visual impact of selected areas, which contribute to a three-dimensional effect. To check the multiple perspectives of the created wall art the primary & secondary data has been collected; Qualitative study has been conducted.

4. Design Development

Patterns are drawn for different layers of applique as separate pattern is required for each layer. Swatches are decided for different layers according to the suitable color and texture of the fabric.





5. Execution Using Layered Appliqué Work

Construction of wall painting is done by cutting, layering, and fixing fabric pieces according to the developed designs. The highlighted areas are embellished with stones, beads, sequins, and various embroidery materials to enhance the design with a three-dimensional effect.



6. Visual analysis

This painting shows a deep feeling of sadness. The main character looks like he's sinking or falling, lost

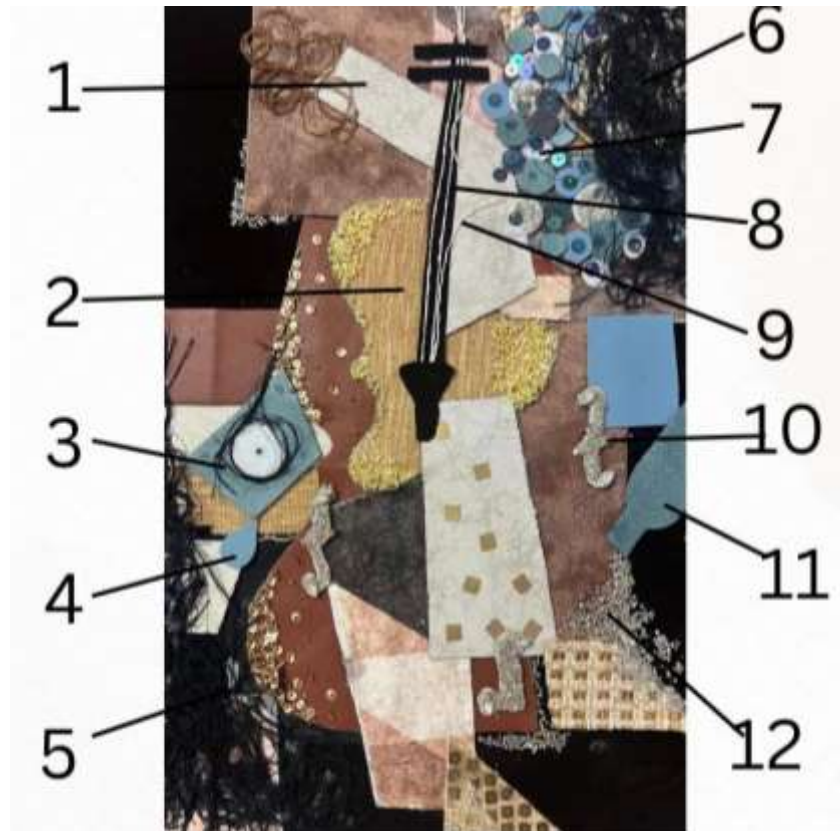
in his own thoughts and weighed down by depression. The elements express pain and tiredness, as if he's been through a lot. He used to play music to cope with his emotions, often with tears in his eyes, but even that wasn't enough. He turned to drugs, trying to escape the pain he felt inside. The dark colours and emotional details in the painting tell a powerful story of struggle, sorrow, and the search for peace. He was so lost in sorrow, or perhaps in a trance, even he didn't notice a snapped string of her violin as if someone had taken her soul away and still he searches for peace.

7. Data collection and analysis

Data is collected from 8 samples through simple random sampling at Govt. College of Arts Chandigarh to know their perspective about the painting. Offline interview method is used for data collection.

1. Ankur (bachelors of arts, 3rd year): He noticed guitar, bottle, music notes, blue eye and side profile of human which depict that the person is playing guitar with wet eyes and in drunken condition to express the sorrows through music. The painting gives the vibe of sad music.
2. Raj Chauhan (masters of fine arts, 2nd year): The painting depict the musical instruments and shows expressionism (to present the world from a subjective perspective) when seen with half eyes closed. It gives the essence of contemporary painting and the dark colors gives a negative vibe that the person is heartbroken from today's music, the situation leads to drug addiction and sadness.
3. Ajay (masters in fine arts, 2nd year): It contains guitar and other musical instruments in cubic art form with abstract motifs. The black shadow on upper right and bottom left side depicts the face of a human, and an eye is also depicted. It gives an essence of happiness as the person is trying to bring happiness through music by suppressing the darkness.
4. Rehnuma (masters in fine arts, 2nd year): There is a figure of a lady with long hair and another girl dancing on the beat of violin enjoying the wine. The painting shows a girl happy in her own world, dancing and enjoying the music.
5. Rimsha (masters of fine arts, 1st year): The elements like violin, music notes, stuck threads, bottle, nuts and a figure of singing girl carrying violin are noticed which seems as if she is expressing her thoughts regarding society through music. A number of blue circles resemble eyes which seems like so many eyes on her and society make different perceptions about her. The concept of painting is social adjustment, as a girl is trying to adjust in society which has different mindsets.
6. Tavisha (masters of fine arts, 1st year): The elements cigarette, violin, musical notes, shattered glass hair, eyes and tears shows the person is getting down in a situation, trying to do something but unable to get progress. The broken strings are like a person, sad and broken from inside with so many eyes watching at him making him stuck and conscious about what people are thinking about him as he is being noticed.
7. Yongchan (masters in fine arts, 1st year): The tones are warm and cool giving the essence of happiness, loneliness or depression together, black threads reveals the negative things. As the corners of the painting are dark and central portion is light which show that a person surrounded by negative environment is still positive from inside and bridge element depicts that he have to cross or go through so many negative things to stay positive.
8. Hardev Singh (professor of architect, artist and film maker, ex student of govt. College of arts): the golden shades depict light which gives an essence of positive energy and the dark corners give negativity, the ratio of positivity and negativity is 80% and 20% respectively. It looks like blue period still life paintings of Picasso. The loose threads depicts a broken man.

ELEMENTS FOUND BY INTERVIEWEES



1. Cigarette
2. Violin
3. Eye
4. Tear
5. Shadow
6. Human face figure
7. Eyes
8. Bridge
9. Broken string
10. Musical notes
11. Bottle
12. liquor

7. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The painting created using layered appliqué work is based on cubism. As the main feature of cubism is multiple perspectives, a small interview is conducted from a few artists to gather the multiple viewpoints of the painting created. All of the interviewees have their own perspective regarding the painting as some of them thought that the painting is depicting sadness and the character is broken in grief in alcoholic condition trying to get relief from his sorrows through music and trying to stay positive in a world full of negativity. Whereas some people thought that the character is conscious about various eyes on him and what society think about him as he is being noticed and stuck somewhere and is trying to adjust in judgmental society. On the other hand some people have very positive perception about the

painting as they feel that the character is enjoying the music and dancing in her own shine which gives the essence of a positive energy. The material used in the creation of wall painting is waste furnishing fabric purchased from the furniture shop at trash price, which helps in utilizing the waste into a creative artwork. It might help further in reducing the pressure on landfills due to textile waste.

8. REFERENCES

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