Descriptive Imagery Response

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‘Girl before Mirror’ is painted by the 20th century’s most influential and greatest artist, Pablo Picasso. The painting is known to be the last of the canvas series painted by Picasso in the duration of 1931 to 1932. It was painted in March of 1932, and produced in the very style he used at that time. The painting reflects the concept of vanity which was the theme depicted in past eras. However, in this painting, Picasso creates another different and unique view of this idea. Generally, the novel work of Picasso is distinctive from others, in the way, that he did not discover new themes but presented the old ones uniquely and originally (Gottlieb, 1966). This painting was created during the cubism period of Picasso. Picasso and Georges Braque fashioned a new genre of art which is referred to as cubism. Cubism art was painted such that it did not only present a single perspective but the elements with the use of lines and geometry, were signified as they would allow the viewer to explore several distinct perspectives simultaneously. Cubism soon became an integral genre of arts influencing almost every artist. Picasso’s pieces of art are considered as the most significant contribution to date (Naini, 2009). Les Demoiselles d’Avignon was the first painting created by Picasso in 1907 in the cubist theme. The boldness of Picasso is reflected through his art pieces. The backgrounds of the paintings were even created with fine details to enhance the focus on the main subject. The backgrounds were made to intensify the focus of the theme. ‘Girl before Mirror’ is the true luxury if one wishes to relish the cubism movement. The girl in the painting is Marie-Therese Walter who was a young mistress of Picasso. She also appeared in several paintings created by Picasso in early 1930. Therese was the major inspiration of Picasso for a long time. This art price is thought to be more personal to Picasso as compared to The Old Guitarist or Guernica because of Therese. Through the painting, Picasso portrayed his understanding of Therese’s nature. In early 1930, most of the paintings of Picasso carried the theme of cubism. He was part of the movement which was later known as Modernism. Modernism encompassed the numerous artistic styles and visual responses. This term is applied to some specific artistic and literary trends developed at the start of the 20th century. Modernism tends to provide the arts a new meaning and encase different perspectives within a piece of art. Modernism displays the relations observed differently otherwise. This is the reason modernism is known to reject the conventions, and stretch the boundaries created by the art of the nineteenth century. The predominant work of Picasso in the cubist style gained popularity and served as an inspiration to other artists adopting a modern approach. The critics belonging to different eras have critiqued the painting ‘Girl before Mirror’ and shown an extensive range of responses through their assessments. Different critiques presented a number of interpretations of the painting like for example, the girl looking in the mirror thinks that she looks older. According to another interpretation, the different sides of a woman are shown. One side is where she is dolled up to look a woman and the other is when she removes her makeup and is revealed as a vulnerable lady. The fine details of her facial features painted by Picasso illustrates that her body is deformed due to the harsh realities. Another thought-provoking interpretation of the painting is that the girl is aware of her flaws but the world views only her superficial beauty.

References

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