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THE WINDOW
Pablo Picasso, behind a window, 1952, Robert Doisneau
What’s special about a window?

Close your eyes and imagine that you are in a space with nothing at all. Suddenly, a window appears in front of you and it is closed. You approach it and open it... What can you see from the window? Is it a real or imaginary world?

Do you feel like going out and exploring what’s happening on the other side?

Window with a curtain from the inside, Barcelona, 1899, Pablo Picasso
MPB110218
An artist for each window

Surely everyone has imagined a very different window and setting. The window, an opening to the outside, provides us with an infinite world of possibilities and a major source of inspiration.

Its shape is already a good starting point for working perspective and also, given its functionality, it has been used throughout the history of painting as a transmitting element between the interior and the exterior, between the real and imaginary fact.

Woman at a window, 1822, Caspar David Friedrich

Paris through the window, 1913, Marc Chagall
Looking from inside, looking from outside

Interior window: introspective look, towards the intimate world, towards the secret and private world (voyeurism).

Exterior window: access to the outside world, endless possibilities, world to dream about, to discover...

The window is a dialogue between the inside and the outside and allows us to play with perspective.
Can you see any relation between these two paintings?
You’re right, a window appears in both! We also know that both works are by Picasso and are painted from the same place; a studio he had in the no-longer Carrer de la Riera de Sant Joan in Barcelona.

In the first work we can see that Picasso painted the frame of the window and the street from above. I can almost imagine him leaning back!

In the second, the window remains open and allows us to see what is outside the studio, glimpses of the city’s rooftops on a very bright day, and especially in contrast to the darkness inside the studio. Oh, and you must be wondering: who was this girl in the picture? Lola, his sister!

*The street of Riera de Sant Joan, from the window of the artist’s studio, 1900, Pablo Picasso*

*Lola, the artist’s sister, in the studio of the Riera de Sant Joan, 1900, Pablo Picasso*
Picasso and window

The window was a recurring theme in Picasso's work throughout his career.

He liked to portray what was closest to him, where his life took place; interior enclosures, open to the outside through large windows that communicated his privacy with large and well-lit spaces.

_Balcony, 1898, Pablo Picasso_
The window was the meeting point between the artist and the world, and through its representation fundamental artistic questions were raised:

• Do we paint what we see with our eyes or with imagination?
• Is the painting a window to the world?

Still life on a pedestal in front of an open window, 1919, Pablo Picasso
Infiltrated work

Which of the previous works is not by Picasso?

Make your proposal and explain the reason why it makes you think so.
And the answer is...

2. *The table in front of the window*, 1920, Pablo Picasso (c Estate of Pablo Picasso/ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York)
3. *Woman in the studio III*, 1956, Pablo Picasso
4. *Passeig Colom*, 1917, Pablo Picasso
5. *Lola, Picasso’s sister*, 1899, Pablo Picasso
7. *Still life at the window*, 1919, Pablo Picasso
8. *The doves*, 1957, Pablo Picasso
9. *The dining in the street of La Boëtie*, 1920, Pablo Picasso

It may not have been easy to find the answer to why Picasso used very different artistic languages and often shared themes and styles with other artists.
Windows of other artists

Le voyeur
1921
Dalí

Room in New York
1932
Edward Hopper

In the glass
2017
Shaun Downey
Challenge: the window as a canvas

We have already seen that the window can be used to connect the interior space and the exterior space, we suggest you use it as a canvas and you decide that you want to include there..

Step 1: Look for a window.

Step 2: Observe what we can see from the window: what elements are there? What would you like there to be or to see happen? You can imagine new elements that interact with space or you can change what you see, you choose!

Step 3: Pick up the paint and start drawing!

Pejac

Javier Padin

Lotte Keijzer
Competence proposals

We make a model of a space, either inside or outside to talk about the perspective.

2. We discuss in class together to decide what we would like to see from our windows and make a group drawing of it.

3. With the pop-up technique we represent an element of what can be observed from the window.

4. Project Own Space carried out with the IES Pau Claris:
http://www.blogmuseupicassobcn.org/2011/05/els-projectes-de-barri-com-treballem-amb-les-escoles-del-nostre-entorn/

If you feel like sharing send us an email to
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Bibliography


- *The works The doves in the blog of the Museu Picasso:*
  [http://www.blogmuseupicassobcn.org/2015/08/la-cronologia-de-las-meninas-de-picasso/](http://www.blogmuseupicassobcn.org/2015/08/la-cronologia-de-las-meninas-de-picasso/)

- *Tate Gallery: window* [https://www.tate.org.uk/search?q=window&type=artwork&page=70](https://www.tate.org.uk/search?q=window&type=artwork&page=70)

- *Project From the critical window, Palmadotze* [https://www.palmadotze.com/desdelaventana](https://www.palmadotze.com/desdelaventana)
If you want to know more about Pablo Picasso and the Museum, you can visit our website
www.museupicasso.bcn.cat

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