

## George L.K. Morris

Who was George L.K. Morris and what is Cubism?

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Grade Level:** Grades 2 – 8

### Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the life of George L.K. Morris
- Study what the art movement Cubism is
- Learn what influences an artist's work

### Outcomes:

- Students will learn about Cubism and its two distinct movements
- Students will study how relationships and life experience influenced an artist's work
- Students will engage in critical thinking and visual skills by analyzing artwork

### Associated Activities:

- Cubism Coloring Pages, 30 minutes
- Recycled Robot, 45 minutes

## Who was George L.K. Morris?

Morris was born in New York City on November 14, 1905. Morris attended Groton School, and then graduated from Yale University in 1928. From 1928 to 1929, he studied Realism at the Art Students League of New York under painters John French Sloan and Kenneth Hayes Miller. In 1929, he traveled to Paris, where he continued his studies with Fernand Léger and Amédée Ozenfant. It was there that he became a confirmed abstractionist.



In 1935, he married fellow artist, Suzy Frelinghuysen. In 1936, he became one of the founding members of the American Abstract Artists and served as its president in the 1940s. He and his wife were part of the Park Avenue Cubists, a group of four artists who came from affluent backgrounds. Morris is best known for his Cubist sculptures and paintings.



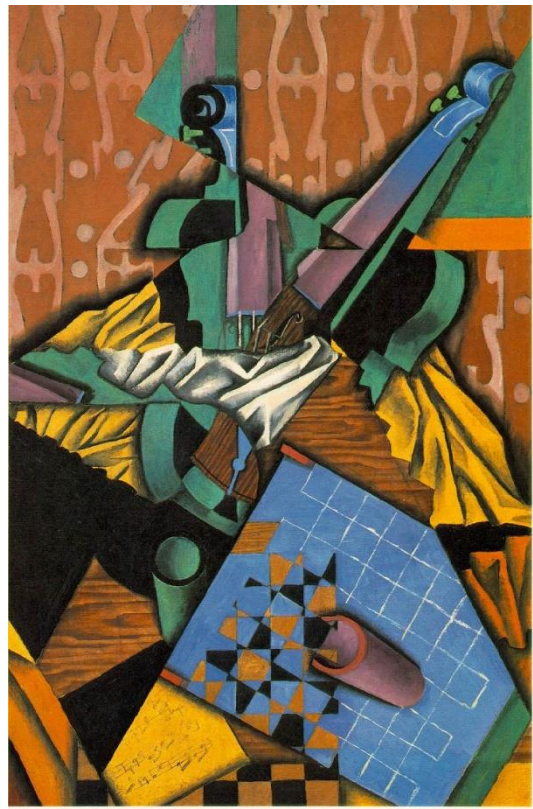
Courtesy Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio

## What is Cubism?

Cubism was started in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. The artworks are geometrical and look like they are made of cubes, thus giving the movement its name. There are two types of cubism: analytical and synthetic. Analytical cubism is characterized by monochrome (one color) artworks, and the focus was showing different angles of a subject in one artwork. Synthetic cubism brought in brighter colors and collages. Cubism also included sculpture and architecture designed based on cubist principles.



Pablo Picasso, *Girl with a Mandolin (Fanny Tellier)*, 1910, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York



Juan Gris, *Violin and Checkerboard*, 1913, Oil on canvas, private collection

**Activity: Color your own Cubist art with our Cubism Coloring Pages.**

## George L.K. Morris and His Art

George L.K. Morris was not just a painter – he was also a sculptor, writer, and editor. When he first began his art career, he studied realist art, but his journey to Paris would change his focus to abstract art. From 1937 through 1943, Morris advocated for abstract art while editor, art critic, and patron of the literary magazine *Partisan Review*. After 1947, he wrote less and focused primarily on painting and sculpture.

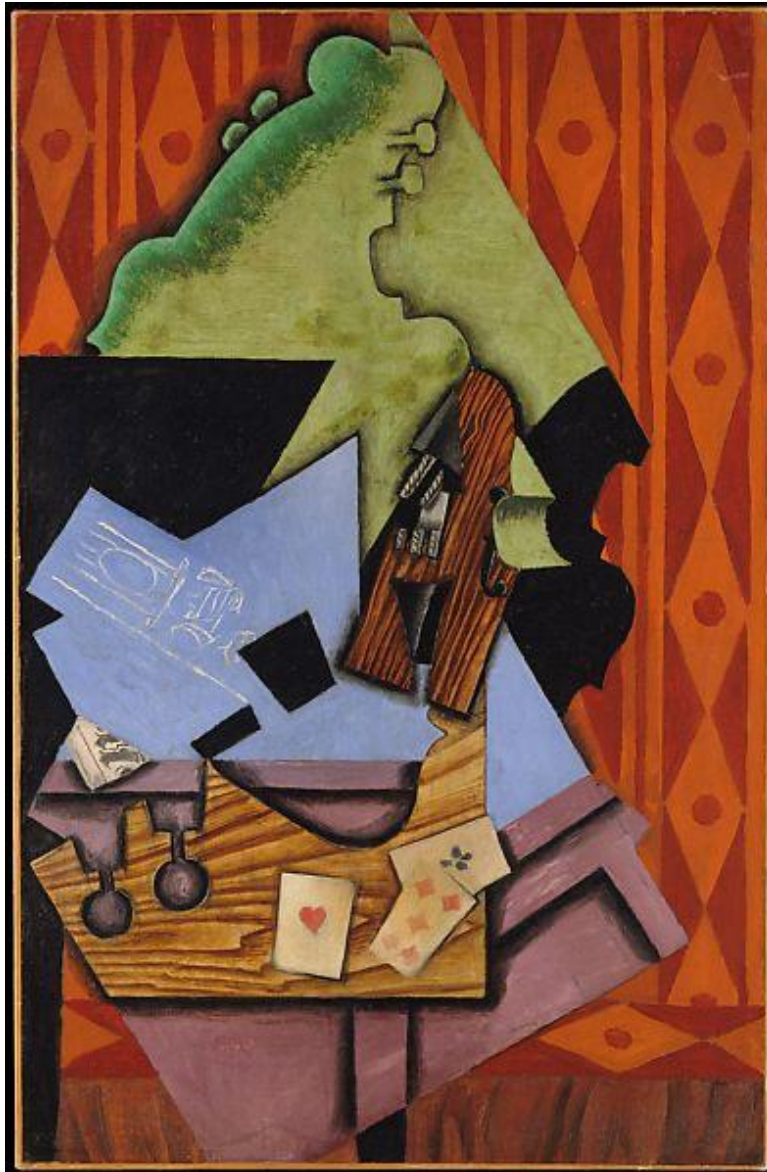


George L.K. Morris, *Munition Factory*,  
1943, oil on canvas, Art Bridges

**Did you know?** Munitions is a term used to describe materials for war like ammunition and equipment.

## Art Analysis

What do you think the following artworks represent? People? Instruments? Other objects? Which ones do you think are analytical cubism and which are synthetic cubism?



Juan Gris, *Violin and Playing Cards on a Table*, 1913,  
oil on canvas, Metropolitan Museum of Art



Pablo Picasso, *Three Musicians*, 1921, oil on canvas,  
Museum of Modern Art



Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, 1937, oil on canvas, Museo Reina Sofía



Georges Braque, *Violin and Palette*, 1909, oil on canvas, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum



George L. K. Morris, *Taurus*, 1965, marble,  
Smithsonian American Art Museum

**Activity:** Create 3D Cubist robots using found objects at home with our Recycled Robot activity.