

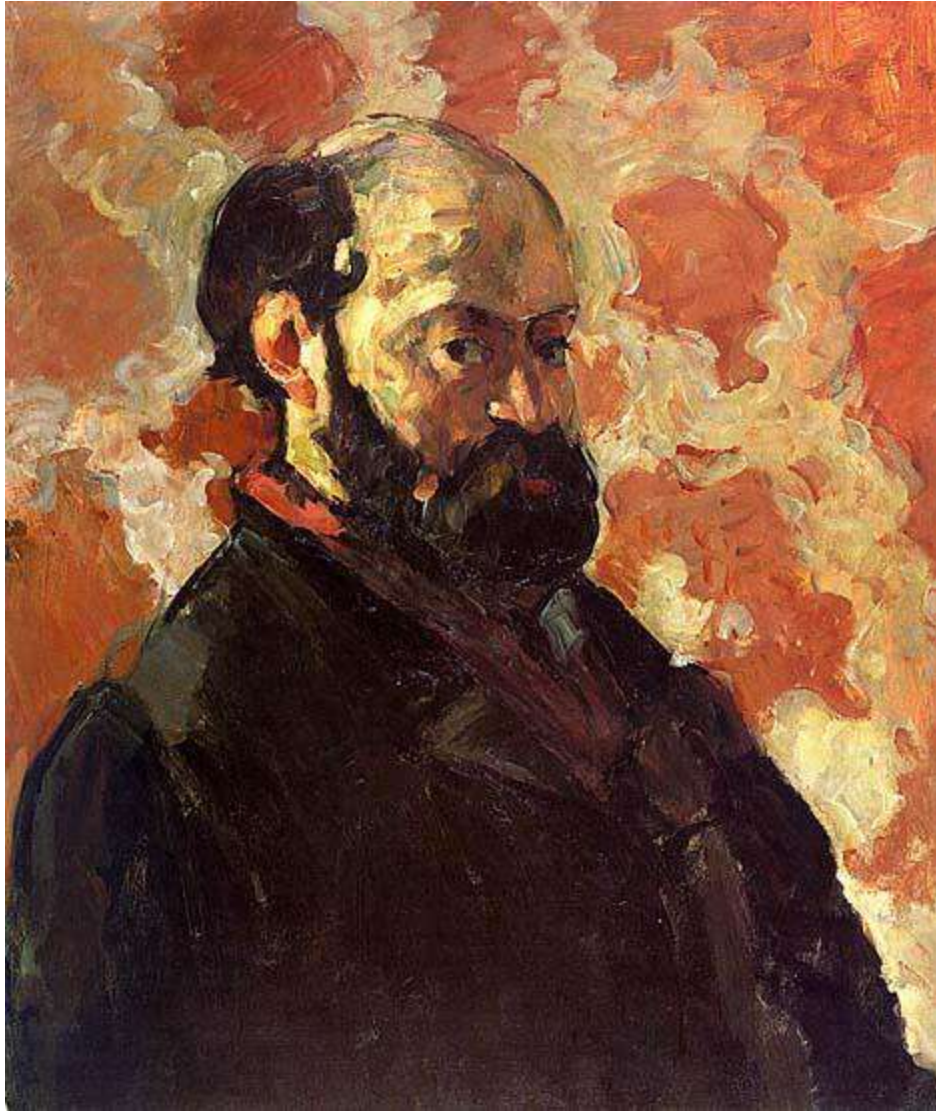


Paul Cezanne

1839 – 1906

Apples and Oranges

Art History
D'Ambra



Paul Cézanne
was born in
Aix-en-
Provence,
France, on
January 19,
1839.



Aix-en-Provence is
a small town in the
south of France



His father was a successful banker, so Cezanne had more financial security than many artists did. However, that also meant that his father wanted Paul to follow in his footsteps, instead of becoming an artist.





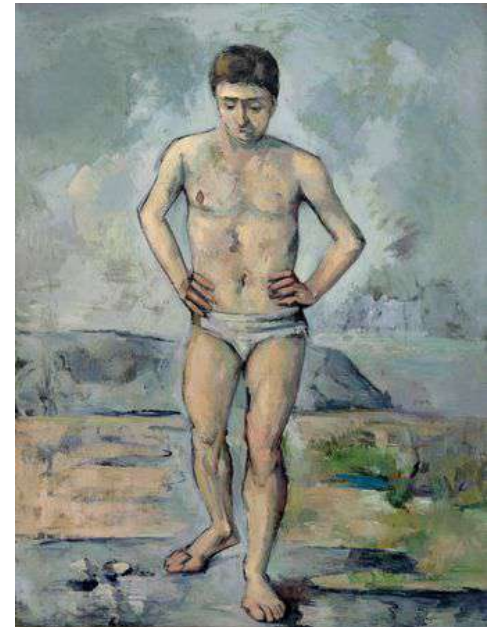
Emile Zola

When Paul was 13 years old, he went to a school called Bourbon College, where he met the boy who would become his best friend, Emile Zola. Emile and Paul were both artistic and Emile later become one of the most famous writers in France. This friendship was to last almost a lifetime, and it greatly influenced Cezanne. They were also friends with a third boy, Baptistin Baille. Together, they were known as "les trois inseparables" (the three inseparables).

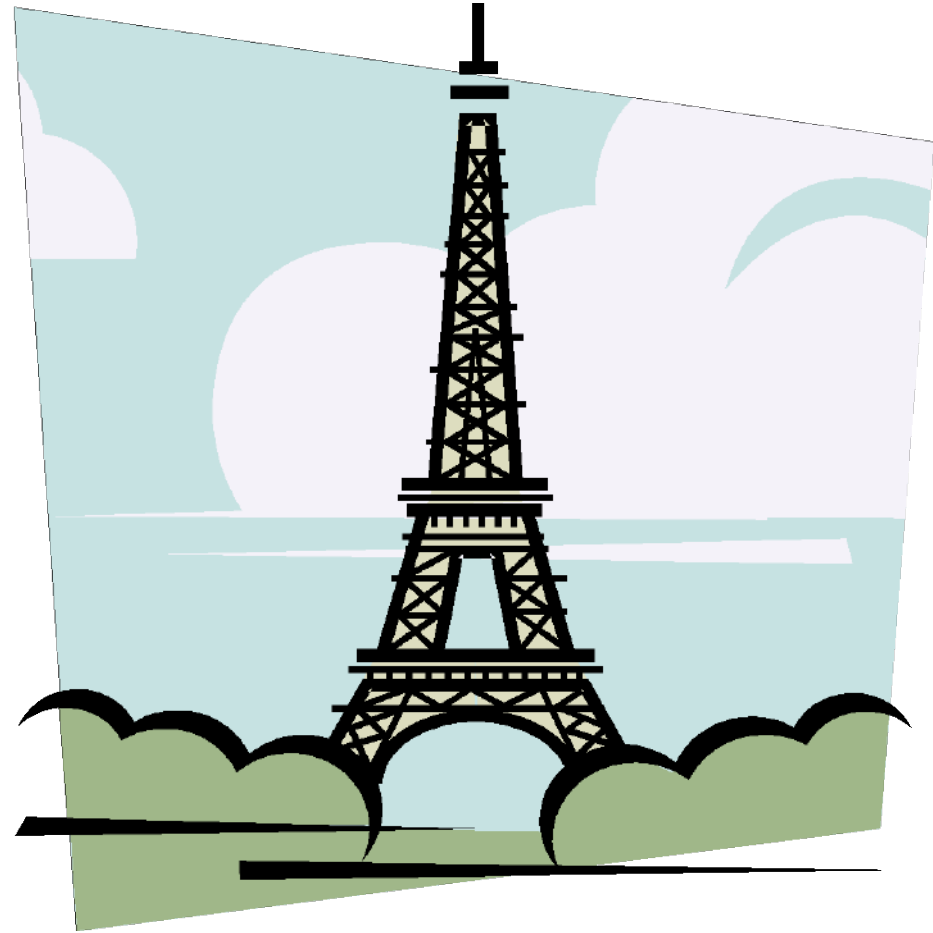


Cézanne and his two friends spent many days of their childhood in the countryside of Aix- lying under great pine trees; exploring the ruins of a Roman aqueduct; climbing the rocky canyons to the Zola Dam and exploring the foothills of Montagne Sainte-Victoire.

The ancient history and natural beauty of the land of his childhood became part of Cezanne's work. The boys' favorite activity was swimming and fishing in the River Arc. In later years, Cezanne showed this in many paintings, and Emile wrote about it in his novels.



While Emile and Paul were at school, Paul attended classes at a local drawing academy. Then, Emile moved to Paris to study and started sending letters to Paul telling him how wonderful Paris was. Paul desperately wanted to move there and live among the artists and paint!



From 1859 to 1861, Cézanne attended law school, to make his father happy, but he continued to receive drawing lessons. Finally, he realized that he would never be happy except as an artist, so he left his hometown for Paris in 1861, to join his friend Emile.

In Paris, Romantic period



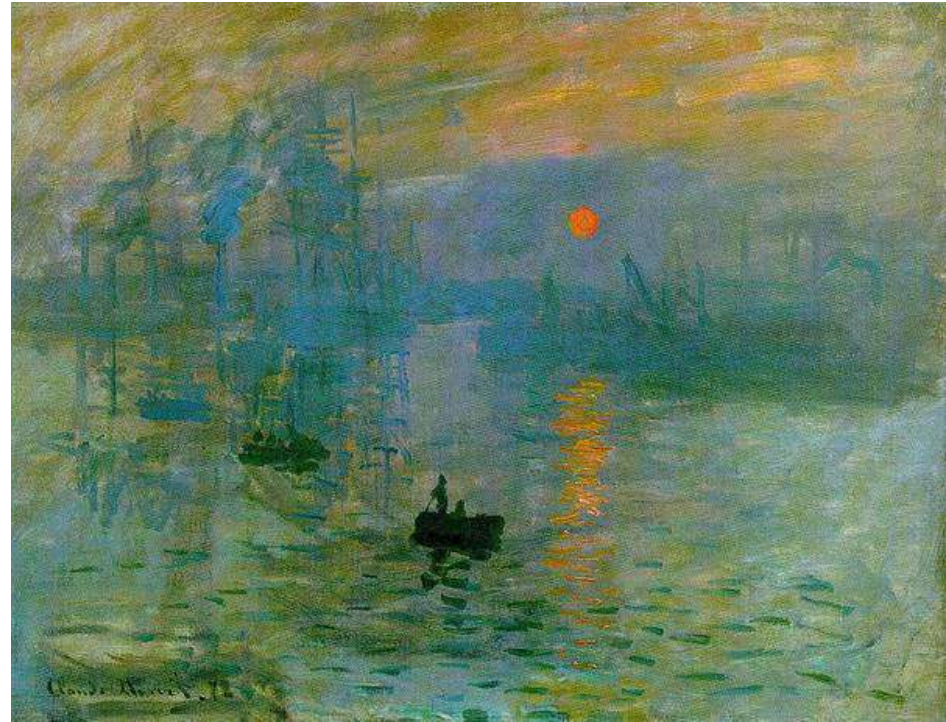
- At the time, he was painting in a dark, thick paint. This picture is of his mother and sister.
- In Paris, he became friends with Pissaro, an important Impressionist painter. Under Pissaro's influence, Cezanne's approach to his canvasses changed to lighter colors and more complex shapes.

Does this look like your home?
How many patterns do you see?

Impressionism

Although Cezanne is considered a “post-Impressionist” (someone who came after the Impressionists), he admired the way that the Impressionists painted.

Rather than paint exactly what something looked like, Impressionists were interested in expressing the feeling of a painting.



Constructive period

- His colors and brushwork lightened up, as did his topics.
- He liked the Impressionists, but he was also interested in the shapes contained in his paintings
- This is a picture of his wife.

Does the chair seem real?
Do you sense that there is a
body under the clothes?
Where is the light source?



He began to work more and more on still life paintings. He preferred to paint things that didn't move, because he would spend hours and hours at it. His subjects didn't like it when he made them "sit like an apple" for hours at a time. Sometimes he took so long to paint that the fruit he was using would rot!



“Conquer Paris with an apple”



- He believed that all forms in nature were based on the cone, the sphere or the cylinder.
- He studied optics, particularly “binocularism”: the way each eye works separately and together to create depth perception.
- Look at this work through each eye separately, and then together.

What shapes do you see in the picture? Do they seem to be actual objects that would feel heavy if you picked them up?

Mature work



- After 1880, Cézanne largely retired to the country after inheriting his father's fortune.
- He said he wanted to change the Impressionist art into "something solid and durable, like the art of the museums".
- The top picture here sold for \$28.6 million in 1993.



Does the fruit look real?
What about the cloth?

Sainte-Victoire

- In 1880, his brother-in-law bought a house near Ste.-Victoire, in southern France.
- To Cezanne, the mountain provided an ideal subject to show the volume, permanence, and firmness that he believed were the purpose of art.
- Notice the lack of people and movement.

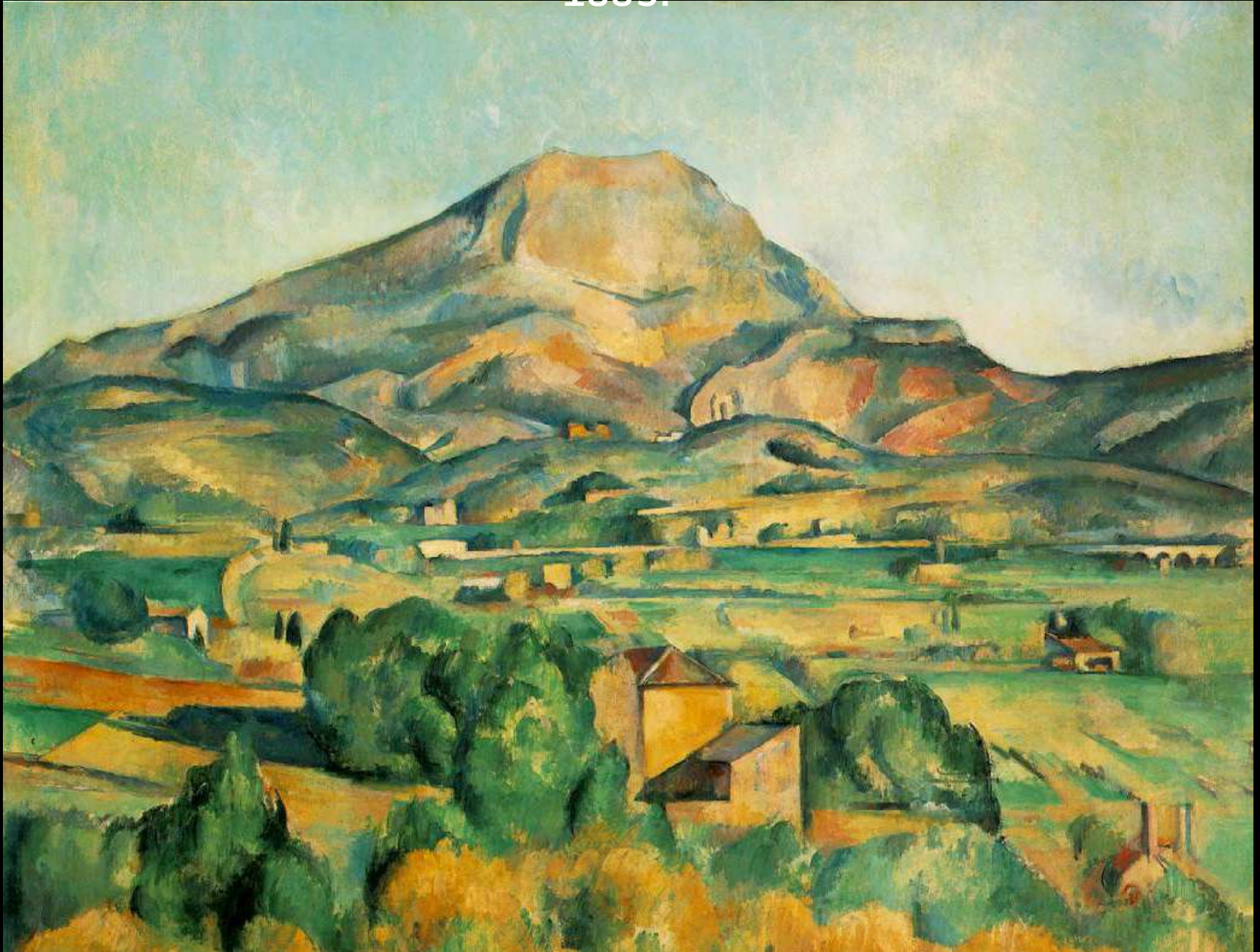


Do you see a sphere? A
cone? A cylinder?

Do you like this picture? Does
it feel realistic?

At the end of his life Cézanne built a studio on the outskirts of Aix. He painted the bathing pictures we looked at earlier, remembering his childhood fondly. He wrote to fellow artist Emile Bernard, “I have sworn to die painting.” That vow came true when he was found outdoors after a cold autumn rainstorm, lying unconscious beside his easel. He died a few days later, in October 1906, at the age of 67.

**Paul Cezanne, *Mont Saint Victoire*,
1885.**



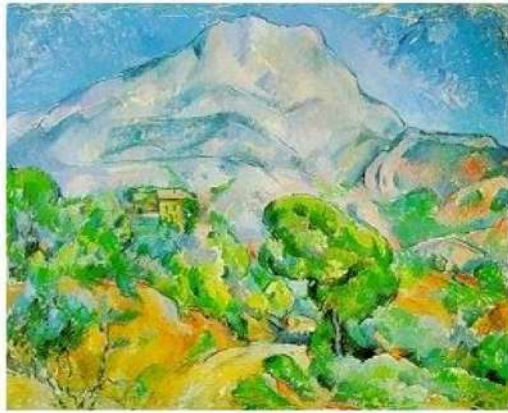


Paul Cezanne, *Still Life with Peppermint Bottle*, 1890-94.

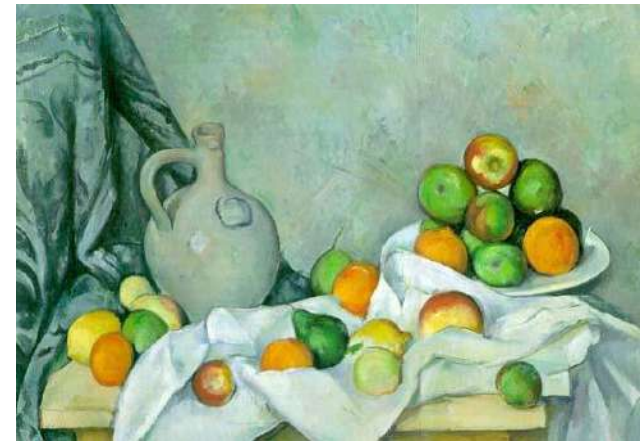




Paul Cezanne
Self-Portrait with Palette
1885-87.



Cézanne's work lives on and he is considered one of the greatest painters of all time.



“The Father of Us All”



Picasso famously said Cezanne was “the father of us all”--truly a giant to the artists of the 20th century.