

# ROMERO BRITTO – THE NEW PICASSO



*Romero Britto | Pop-Art Star*



*Pablo Picasso | Icon of Classical Modern*

R. Britto

Picasso-

Picasso und Britto – two artists whose lives could not have been more different, but whose art evolved quite naturally by turning the familiar into something strange and unique. They are both full of that restless drive which the gods bestow upon their favourites. Picasso once said: “If I run out of oils, I’ll paint with watercolours, if I run out of watercolours, I’ll use a pencil, and if I’m thrown in prison, then I’ll spit on my finger and paint on the wall.” Britto, who comes from a modest social background, began painting as a child. He painted on newspaper, scraps of cardboard or anything he could find to feed his insatiable creative urge.

Picasso’s approach was ground-breaking, and like Britto’s, so fresh that most of their contemporaries were unable to assess it initially, and this is a sure sign that their art, which has now gained global popularity, possesses a genius and magnitude that lasts for centuries and becomes part of mankind’s legacy.

## Similarities between the works of Romero Britto and Picasso



*Bust of Nefertiti in the original*



*Digital abstraction of the bust of Nefertiti*

A genius can always be recognized by the fact that their work is incomparable to that of others. If we now consider Romero Britto's similarities with Picasso, it is because he, like the Spaniard, has created a totally new and unique abstract style, and the development of his art and stylistic techniques often runs parallel to those of the greatest artist of the 20th century.



### Britto and Cubism

Like Picasso, Britto's quest for a unique style found its expression in Cubism. Motifs we observe can be divided into surfaces and these surfaces re-assembled to form a picture, as demonstrated (left) in the digital abstract of the Nefertiti bust. Picasso's most famous picture from his Cubist period is "Les Femmes d'Avignon".



*Pablo Picasso*



*Romero Britto*

Britto's early works, forerunners to the individual style which he was later to develop, feature a fragmentation of motifs into coloured surfaces, sometimes making them strongly redolent of Picasso's works.



Pablo Picasso



Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto



Romero Britto

### Motifs and Abstractions

When trying to decipher an artist's language, one inevitably comes up against their choice of motifs and how the abstraction ignites or extinguishes the viewer's imagination. Here the two artists again display a close affinity which has not been learned or adopted, but which mirrors the natural development process of their artistic language.



Pablo Picasso



Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto

### Expression

Finally, when it comes to the impact of the paintings, there are again multiple similarities but also distinct differences. Many analogies can be seen in their proximity to nature, the primordial and intrinsic. The main differences can be found in the cheerfulness and zest for life which seems to emanate from almost all of Britto's works. Picasso, on the other hand, lived through two world wars, the Spanish Civil War and several family tragedies, and his works sometimes hint at darker aspects of his psyche. Both artists are united by their common ability to make every line, every colour and every surface of their paintings seem to laugh or cry, but Romero Britto ignites almost every single work with such an intense Brazilian vitality, as if he were a descendent of the sun god Helios himself, so that anyone who has a Britto hanging on their wall never needs to raise the blinds in a morning.



Romero Britto

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Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto

Both Picasso and Britto integrated the essence of Cubism into their own artistic language and used it as their stylistic means of communication.



Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto



Romero Britto – Drawing of Alfred Biolek

## A Stroke of Genius

The affinity between Picasso and Britto is further documented in the genius of their line drawings. They are both masters in endowing the “strokes” of their line drawings with life and soul, and in the way they condense the essence of nature into a few “dashed-off” lines which are far more effective than any photograph.



Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto

## Colours, forms, patterns

The Spaniard Pablo Picasso and the Brazilian Romero Britto cannot – and do not wish to – ignore the colours of their sun-drenched homelands. They both have the impulse not to mix colours but instead to use dots, hatching and elements which allow a range of different shades to harmonize into one overall composition, just like in nature. Their aspiration is to create art that is to be felt as opposed to “read”.



Pablo Picasso



Romero Britto

## BRITTO – THE NEW PICASSO



Pablo Picasso

Picasso's "Le train bleu" was used as a backdrop for Diaghilev's Russian ballet, and in its expression is similar to Britto's "Love Blossoms".



Romero Britto

Britto's "Love Blossoms" illustrates the exuberance of young lovers within nature.

## Brief Biography of Romero Britto

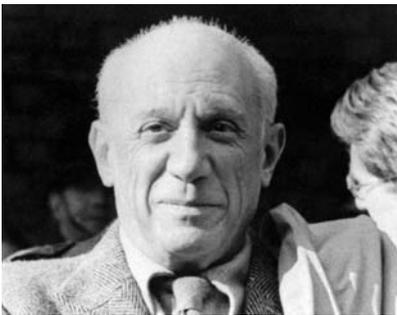


### Romero Britto on himself:

*“Ever since I was a child, I have felt driven to express my feelings in pictures. Painting has allowed me to create a personal fantasy world to live in. I would like to give back to the world a little bit of the happiness that I have been lucky enough to enjoy. We celebrate my art amongst friends, so that we can then do something to help those less fortunate than myself, particularly children.”*

- 1963** Born on 6 October in Recife/Brazil, the eighth of nine children
- 1971** Starts to paint at a young age, using anything and everything as his canvas
- 1977** First publication of his work and own exhibition in Brasilia
- 1987** Move to Miami, where he still lives with wife, Cheryl and son, Brendan
- 1989** Invitation from “Absolut Vodka” to join the legendary “Show Case” group of artists
- 1990** Founding of his art industry, “Britto Central”
- from 1990** Worldwide success, with exhibitions in museums and galleries (including MoMA and the Guggenheim in New York). Spectacular projects such as the largest installation ever in Hyde Park, a 45 foot tall pyramid in celebration of the return of the King Tutankhamen Exhibit, the largest living canvas for Super Bowl XLI in 2007, and an exhibition at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris in 2008 and 2010.

## Brief Biography of Pablo Picasso



### Pablo Picasso on himself:

*“It is my destiny to work, to work myself breathless. I am action: my creativity is often a kind of rage. The ideas never stop flowing because they come from the sensations that I gather and the observations that I record.”*

- 1881** Born on 25 October in Málaga (Spain)
- 1891** Studies under his father José Ruiz Blasco at the Art Academy in La Coruña
- 1895** Studies at the La Lonja art school in Barcelona
- 1901–1904** Melancholic Blue Period
- 1905–1906** Picasso works on paintings of gamblers and acrobats which characterize his Rose Period
- 1906-1907** His Black Period, where he falls under the influence of African art and sculpture
- from 1907** Appearance of cubist, stereometric forms (Analytical Cubism)
- from 1912** Picasso develops collages (Synthetic Cubism period)
- from 1920** Paints monumental nudes and antique themes (Classical Period). Creates drawings made up of simple outlines in an archaic style. At the end of the 1920s he combines surrealist motifs with cubist elements
- 1935** Separates from Olga. Begins his relationship with Marie-Thérèse Walter
- 1936-1939** During the Spanish Civil War, Picasso supports the republicans and paints “Guernica”
- 1943** Meets Françoise Gilot, who is his significant other between 1946 and 1953
- from 1950** Picasso creates paraphrases (new adaptations) of works by old masters
- 1958** Marries Jacqueline Roque
- 1973** Picasso dies on 8 April in Mougins, near Antibes (France)

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