This is a chapter in piero scaruffi’s “A Visual History of the Visual Arts”: http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history
The Victorian Age

• Painting/ Before cubism
  – Frantisek Kupka (1871, Czech)
    • Geometric abstraction

“First Step” (1909)

“Disks of Newton” (1912)
The Victorian Age

• Painting/ Before cubism
  – Pablo Picasso (1881): “Les Demoiselles d'Avignon” (1907)
    • Influenced by Gauguin and Cezanne
    • Influenced by African sculpture

Not yet cubist (too erotic and too colorful)

Optical synthesis of perspectives. Simultaneous vision.
The Victorian Age

• Painting
  – Cubism
    • For the first time since the Renaissance the goal is not an accurate representation of reality
    • Disposal of perspective (paintings with no depth)
    • Simultaneous views of an object (different perspectives can coexist)
    • New conception of space
    • New process of visual composition
    • Formalistic (about the pictorial technique itself)
    • Mostly monochrome, mostly linear (not curve)
    • Very few external influences (Cezanne)
The Victorian Age

• Painting
  – Cubism
    • Reaction against symbolism
    • Focus on objects of ordinary life
    • A dialogue between representation and abstraction: analytic (the subject is abstracted according to the principle of simultaneous vision, but the painting contains clues to reconstruct it) or synthetic (abstractions are used to create the subject, from abstraction to representation)
The Victorian Age

• Painting
  – Cubism
    • For the first time in history, novelty (for the sake of novelty) prevails over skills
    • Even collages of ordinary materials incorporated into the paintings (1912)
    • 1925: End of Cubism (Picasso’s surrealist “Les Trois Danseuses”)
    • Art has become fashion: the art world is in perennial need of a novelty
    • Art becomes big business
    • The artist becomes a star and a rich person
The Victorian Age

- **Painting**
  - **Cubism**
    - A return to non-representational art: modern art reconnects with ancient art (and, in spirit, with Islamic and Eastern art)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Georges Braque (1882, France)
  • Cezanne’s strategy of turning 3D into 2D via form disassembly and multiple perspectives

“Violin and Candlestick” (1910)

“Violin and Palette” (1910)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Georges Braque (1882, France)

“The Portuguese” (1911)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Pablo Picasso (1881, Spain)

“Female Nude” (1910)  “Ma Jolie” (1911)  “L'Accordeoniste” (1911)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Pablo Picasso
    - “Three Musicians” (1921)
    - “Ambroise Vollard” (1910)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Pablo Picasso
    - “Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler” (1910)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Marcel Duchamp (1887)

“Nu descendant un escalier n° 1” (1911)

“Nu descendant un escalier n° 2” (1912)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Marcel Duchamp (1887)

  “Passage of the Virgin to the Bride” (1912)

“The Bride” (1912)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Marcel Duchamp (1887)

“The King and Queen Surrounded by Swift Nudes” (1912)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Ferdinand Leger (1881)
    • Monochrome figures
    • Dynamic background

“Nudes in the Forest” (1910)
“The City” (1919)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Ferdinand Leger (1881)

“The City” (1919)  
“Le Grand Dejeuner” (1921)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Francis Picabia (1879, France)
• Occult cubism/ Orphism based on kabbala, alchemy and extra dimensions

“Dances at the Spring” (1912)

“Catch as Catch Can” (1913)
The Victorian Age

- **Cubism**
  - Robert Delaunay (1885, France)
- **Late fauvism and proto-expressionism**

“St-Severin” (1909)

“Eiffel Tower in Trees” (1909)

“Simultaneous Windows on the City” (1912)
The Victorian Age

- **Cubism**
  - Robert Delaunay (1885, France)
    - Geometric abstraction

“City of Paris” (1912)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Juan Gris (1887, France)
    - Synthetic cubism
    - Rediscovery of light and color

“Portrait of Picasso” (1912)  “Man in the Cafe” (1912)
The Victorian Age

- Cubism
  - Albert Gleizes (1881)
  - Jean Metzinger (1883)
The Victorian Age

• Cubism
  – Lyonel Feininger (1871, USA)

“Harbor Mole” (1913)
The Victorian Age

- Orphism
  - Cubism with strong colors
  - Sonia Delaunay (1885, France)

“Le Bal Bullier” (1913)
The Victorian Age

• After Cubism
  – Abstraction: Mondrian, Malevich, Kupka, Delaunay...
  – Neoclassicic revivalism ("return to order"): 
    • Picasso (1915)
    • Constructivism (Russia, 1915)
    • Amédée Ozenfant's Purism (1917)
    • Pittura Metafisica (Italy, 1919)
    • Precisionism (1920)
    • Art Deco (France, 1925)
    • New Objectivity (Germany, 1925)
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