

A Very Strange Painting, Stamp and Meaning

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

MSCNY Article No. 66

Pablo Picasso was certainly not everybody's "cup of tea." Back in the day, his works became collectively known as "modern art," and there were numerous jokes about his strange and confusing creations. His particular painting entitled *Girl Before Mirror*, shown on the stamp seen here, intrigued me for years. So much so that I duplicated it on canvas back in the early 1970s. Of course, everyone thought that I was a little strange for doing so.

Picasso's paintings were not the sort of thing one hung in his living room. In short, they were not intended for decoration. They all carried a meaning of some sort—often very deep and intense.

Your question at this point is likely, what kind of a meaning does *Girl Before Mirror* have? Strangely, most of us have likely experience what the painting portrays. It usually occurs when we are children, and upon seeing ourselves in a mirror get a little odd feeling, which asks the questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? This is called, *contemplating one's existence*. It only lasts for a second or two and seldom happens again. Picasso obviously had this experience and created the painting to reflect the feeling.

The questions never get specifically answered and sort of pop up again in late life when we have more time to think about things.

Art, or course, is profusely used for stamp designs, and one can specialize with certain major artists. Just netsearch "Picasso on stamps" or "Da Vinci on stamps" to see a full array of their works beautifully presented



on stamps. Now you can own your own little *Mona Lisa*

As Freemasons, we are encouraged to study the liberal arts and sciences, and stamps provide an exceptionally good platform to study essentially any subject.

Although we can't answer the questions posed by *Girl Before Mirror*, we can still enjoy the painting and "reflect" on what it represents.

(Togo, Issued 1974)

