

# WIFREDO LAM

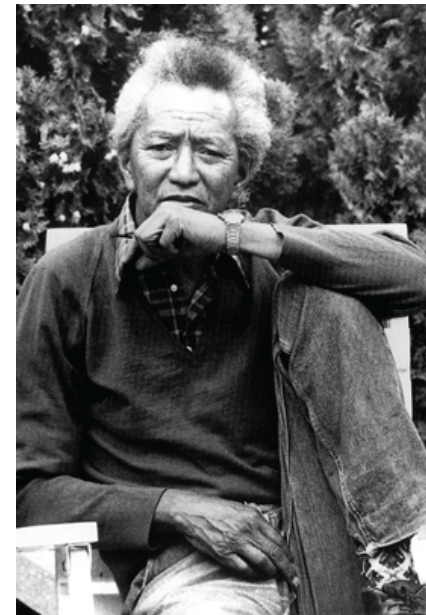
in North America

A FAMILY GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION



HAGGERTY MUSEUM OF ART  
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

## WIFREDO LAM



Wifredo Lam

Wifredo Lam was born in Sagua la Grande, **CUBA** in 1902. In 1916, his family moved to Havana where he attended the Escuela de Bellas Artes.

When he was 21, Lam moved to **SPAIN** to study at the Museo del Prado.

He later moved to Paris and became interested in **MODERN** art.

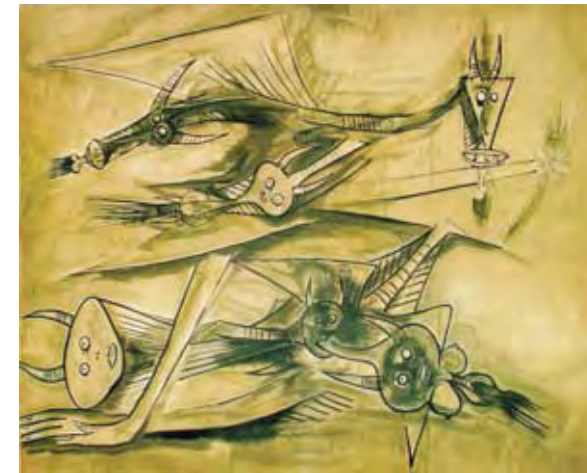
During World War II, he returned home to Cuba and developed an entirely new **STYLE** of his own.

Wifredo Lam combined personal experiences with ritual-inspired objects from his Afro-Cuban **HERITAGE** to create images that reflect universal themes.

## INFLUENCES

**LOOK AROUND THE GALLERIES.**  
**CAN YOU FIND THESE SUBJECTS IN THE WIFREDO LAM PAINTINGS?**

- Symbolic creatures
- Vegetal-animal forms
- Cycles of life and death
- Horse-headed figures
- Mask-like facial features
- Lush natural environments
- Spirit figures
- Large hands
- Bird-like forms
- African-derived forms
- Stories from religion



Wifredo Lam  
Untitled, 1942  
Oil on canvas  
Collection of Ramon and Nercys Cernuda  
Miami, Florida

Wifredo Lam incorporated masks into his cubist work as well as ritual-inspired objects from his Afro-Cuban background.

**DO YOU SEE THESE MASKS USED AS FACIAL FEATURES IN PAINTINGS BY WIFREDO LAM?**



Mask  
Fang  
Gabon  
Musée du quai Branly  
Paris



Mask  
Mahongwe  
Republic of Congo  
Museum Modern Art  
New York



Mask  
Baule  
Ivory Coast  
Musée Picasso  
Paris



Mask  
Dan  
Ivory Coast  
Museum Reitberg  
Zurich

## ORIGIN

How has Wifredo Lam depicted the **THEME** of family or mother and child?

How has he used the same artistic **ELEMENTS** [color, line, shape, space, and texture] to create different artworks with different meanings?

Look at the Mother and Child paintings below by Pablo Picasso and Mary Cassatt. How are these paintings similar to Lam's Mother and Child painting? How are they different?



Mary Cassatt  
Mother Playing with Child, 1897  
Pastel on woven paper, mounted on cardboard  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York



Wifredo Lam  
Mother and Child, 1939  
Oil on canvas  
Museum of Modern Art  
New York



Pablo Picasso  
Mother and Child, 1907  
Oil on canvas  
Musée Picasso  
Paris

"African artists had been sculpting masks as early as Paleolithic times, continuing to do so through the Kingdoms of the Dogon, the Baule, the Basongye and the Dan. The masks were typically used as stand-ins for the gods, deities or spirits of ancestors." [Lowrey Stokes Sims]

