



# Art History

## English Lessons



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# Oskar Kokoschka



Oskar Kokoschka was an Austrian painter born on March 1, 1886, in Vienna. He is known for his powerful and emotional paintings that are part of the Expressionist movement. Expressionism focuses on showing strong feelings and inner experiences rather than realistic details.

Kokoschka's work is famous for its vivid colors and dramatic brushstrokes. He painted portraits, landscapes, and scenes of daily life, but he always aimed to show the emotions behind the subjects. One of his most well-known works is *The Tempest* (1914), which depicts a turbulent and emotional scene.

Kokoschka studied art at the Vienna School of Applied Arts and was influenced by other Expressionist artists, like Egon Schiele and Franz Marc. His style was often intense and sometimes shocking, using distorted forms and striking colors to express the complexity of human feelings.

During World War I, Kokoschka served as a soldier and his experiences in the war deeply affected his art. After the war, he continued to paint and also worked as a playwright and writer. His works often reflected his personal struggles and the challenges of the time.

Oskar Kokoschka's art has left a lasting impact on modern art. His bold style and emotional depth continue to be admired and studied today. He passed away on February 22, 1980, but his contributions to art remain influential.

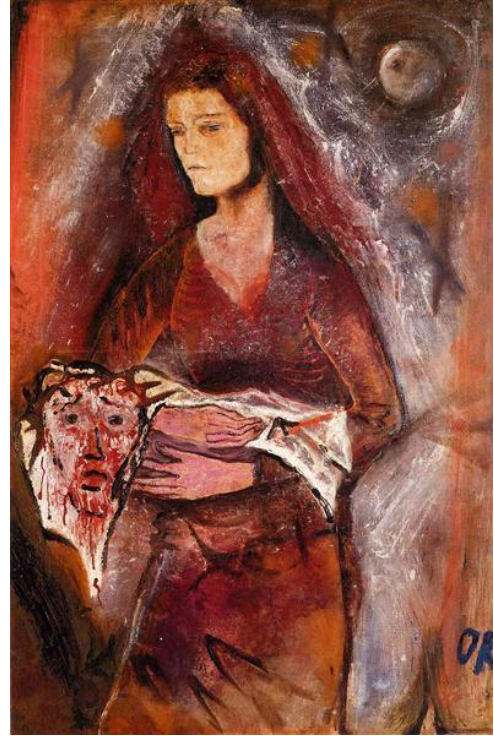


## **Decide if the sentences are True or False:**

1. Oskar Kokoschka was born in Vienna, Austria.
2. Kokoschka is known for his work in the Cubist art movement.
3. One of Kokoschka's famous paintings is called *The Tempest*.
4. Kokoschka used soft colors and realistic details in his paintings.
5. He studied art at the Vienna School of Applied Arts.
6. Oskar Kokoschka was influenced by other Expressionist artists like Egon Schiele.
7. During World War I, Kokoschka worked as a writer and playwright.
8. His art often reflected his personal experiences and emotions.
9. Kokoschka passed away in the year 1980.



 **Look at the paintings of Kokoschka below and answer the questions:**



**1 How do these paintings make you feel? Why do you think this is?**

**2 Is there anything you don't like? Is there anything you would do differently if you could draw them yourself?**



Decide if the sentences are True or False:

1. Oskar Kokoschka was born in Vienna, Austria. True
2. Kokoschka is known for his work in the Cubist art movement. False
3. One of Kokoschka's famous paintings is called *The Tempest*. True
4. Kokoschka used soft colors and realistic details in his paintings False
5. He studied art at the Vienna School of Applied Arts. True
6. Oskar Kokoschka was influenced by other Expressionist artists like Egon Schiele. True
7. During World War I, Kokoschka worked as a writer and playwright. False
8. His art often reflected his personal experiences and emotions. True
9. Kokoschka passed away in the year 1980. True



For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





## Painter

[Oskar Kokoschka](#) (1 March 1886 – 22 February 1980) was an Austrian artist, poet and playwright best known for his intense **expressionistic** portraits and landscapes. **(information from Wikiart).**

## Paintings

You can see Kokoschka's work online here:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/oskar-kokoschka/all-works#!#filterName:all-paintings-chronologically,resultType:masonry>

The first painting is called “The bride of the wind or The Tempest” (1914) and you can see it in the Kunstmuseum in Basel, Switzerland. This is considered Kokoschka's best known work, it is an allegorical picture featuring a self-portrait by the artist, lying alongside his lover [Alma Mahler](#)

<https://kunstmuseumbasel.ch/de/ausstellungen/2022/zerrissene-moderne>

The second painting is called “Veronica’s veil” (1909) and you can see it in the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest

<https://www.mfab.hu/artworks/471/>

The third painting is called “Knight errant-Self portrait” (1915) and you can see it in the Guggenheim Museum in New York

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/2224>



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For any questions you may have you can message me at [info@ruthlessteacher.com](mailto:info@ruthlessteacher.com)

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