# Cézanne's Life: A Comprehensive Exploration of the Artist's Journey and Masterpieces

#### Early Life and Influences

Paul Cézanne was born in Aix-en-Provence, France, on January 19, 1839. His father was a successful banker, and the family lived comfortably. Cézanne showed an early interest in art, and his parents encouraged his pursuit. He attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Aix and later studied drawing at the Académie Suisse in Paris.

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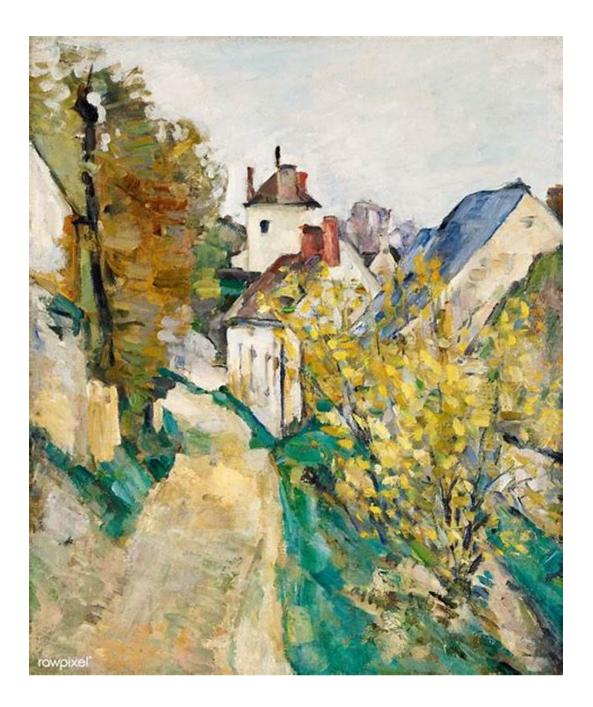


During his formative years, Cézanne was influenced by the works of the Old Masters, including Nicolas Poussin and Eugène Delacroix. He also admired the art of his contemporaries, such as Gustave Courbet and Édouard Manet. These influences can be seen in Cézanne's early paintings, which are characterized by their realism and bold brushwork.



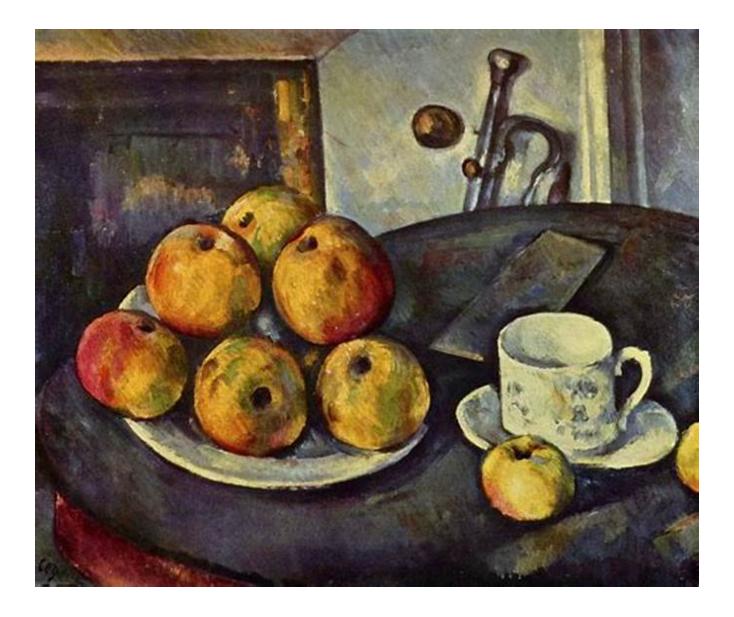
#### The Transition to Modernism

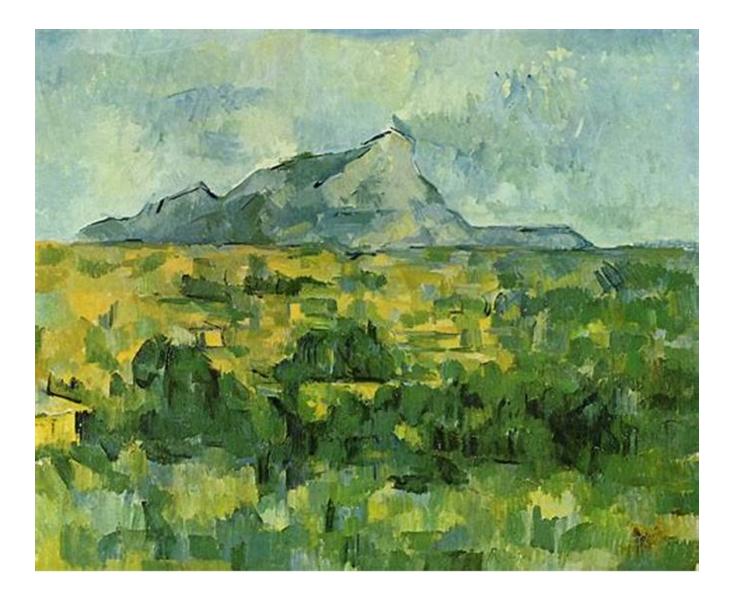
In the 1870s, Cézanne began to experiment with new ways of representing the world. He became increasingly interested in the effects of light and color, and his paintings became more simplified and abstract. This period of transition is often seen as the beginning of Cézanne's modernism. Cézanne's new style was not immediately accepted by the art world. He was rejected by the official Salon de Paris on several occasions, and his paintings were often criticized by critics. However, he remained undeterred and continued to develop his unique vision.



Cézanne's modern painting, 'The House of Doctor Gachet' (1873) **Post-Impressionism and Mature Masterpieces**  In the 1880s, Cézanne's work began to be recognized by a wider audience. He was included in the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874, and his paintings were praised by critics such as Émile Zola. However, Cézanne did not consider himself an Impressionist. He believed that his art was more rigorous and structured than the work of his Impressionist colleagues.

In his later years, Cézanne focused on a few key motifs, including landscapes, still lifes, and portraits. He painted the same subjects over and over again, each time experimenting with different ways of representing them. Cézanne's mature masterpieces are characterized by their simplified forms, bold colors, and sense of balance and harmony.





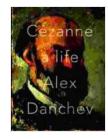
Cézanne's landscape painting, 'Mont Sainte-Victoire' (1906) Legacy and Influence

Paul Cézanne died in Aix-en-Provence on October 22, 1906. He is considered one of the most important and influential artists in modern art. His work has been praised for its originality, its technical brilliance, and its profound influence on subsequent generations of artists.

Cézanne's paintings continue to be exhibited in museums and galleries around the world. They are admired for their beauty, their complexity, and their enduring power to inspire and challenge viewers.



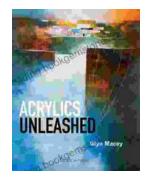
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## Cezanne: A Life by Alex Danchev

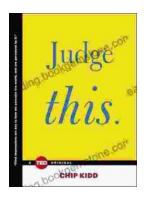
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