

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BOOK ON PICASSO ETCHINGS

TO BE PUBLISHED BY MUSEUM

A series of 24 etchings by Picasso, never before reproduced, will be included in The Sculptor's Studio: Etchings by Picasso to be published by the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on July 1. William S. Lieberman, Associate Curator in charge of prints, has written an introductory essay on the etchings and their relation to Picasso's career as a sculptor. The 32-page book will sell for \$1.

The etchings, reproduced not from photographs but from the originals in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room of the Museum of Modern Art, are from a suite of 40 prints Picasso composed on the theme of a classic sculptor at work and at rest in his studio. The entire group is to be found in the collection of the Museum's Print Room. They were drawn during the spring of 1933, a year after Picasso had established his own sculpture workshop in the country chateau of Boisgeloup about 45 miles northwest of Paris.

"Picasso had often turned to print making to explore some specific subject," Mr. Lieberman says in his introduction. "One of his favorite themes is the artist himself, and in 1927 he had made several etchings of a painter at work. Now, five years later, he developed at greater length an essay on the sculptor in his studio. Although a preoccupation with the artist as a subject runs through his career, this constellation of etchings expresses most eloquently Picasso's romantic conception of the artist...."

The series of etchings - as many as four were made in a single day - represents the lyric culmination of Picasso's neo-classic style. The complete series was shown at the Museum in 1950, the first showing in either Europe or America. A smaller selection was included in the recent Museum exhibition, "Picasso: His Graphic Art."

It is hoped that this first publication of Picasso's etchings of the sculptor's studio will fill the frequent demands for reproductions of the series.