

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES RECENT PAINTING BY PICASSO

The Museum of Modern Art has announced the acquisition of The Studio with Painted Frame, a recent painting by Picasso, now on view at the Museum in the Picasso: 75th Anniversary Exhibition. The painting, dated by the artist 2 April 1956 and being shown in this country for the first time, is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Werner E. Josten of New York.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections who organized the Picasso show, says:

"The Studio with Painted Frame is, I believe, the finest of Picasso's recent paintings of the interior of his villa at Cannes. In it the artist has transformed the fantastic disorder of his studio into a beautifully controlled design suggesting at first glance his decorative late cubist style of forty years ago. Yet, once one has seen the room itself, the objects in the picture are easily recognizable: the tall heavy-mullioned window with the palm tree beyond, the squat brass brazier (stove) from North Africa, his bronze bust of a woman with the diamond-shaped face, one canvas on the easel ready for work and others scattered about on the floor, leaning every which way.

Four colors--tan, black, brown and the unpainted white of the canvas itself--make an austere harmony, singularly Spanish. When I mentioned this to Picasso he laughed, glanced down at the picture and said, half in self-mockery, "Velazquez." In the same spirit he has painted an "old-master" frame around the margins of the canvas and put his signature below like a museum label."

The Studio with Painted Frame will be on view until September 8, the final closing date of the Picasso exhibition in New York.

The exhibition which has broken attendance records at the Museum since its opening late in May, includes more than 300 paintings, sculptures and drawings from the late 19th century to recent work. It is installed on three floors of the Museum and will close in sections. The first floor, paintings from 1901 until 1925, will close August 25. The Auditorium Gallery, where more than 60 drawings are shown, will close on September 2 and the third floor, which displays paintings and sculpture from 1925 to the present, will close September 8.

For photographs and additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. Circle 5-8900.