

The Museum of Modern Art

NO. 63

PICASSO'S BULL GIVEN TO THE MODERN BY ARTIST'S WIDOW

October 11, 1983

The Bull, Picasso's extraordinary construction in plywood and various other materials which until very recently was unknown to Picasso scholars, has been given to The Museum of Modern Art by Jacqueline Picasso, widow of the artist, it was announced today. The Bull (1958, 46 1/8" x 56 3/4" x 4 1/8") has never been exhibited nor has it ever been reproduced in any of the voluminous Picasso literature.

"I was amazed when I saw this piece among the objects in Jacqueline's share of the estate, and I thought it absolutely extraordinary," said William Rubin, Director of Painting and Sculpture. "She felt that way too and with the same generosity of spirit that has previously characterized her attitude toward the Museum, she made an immediate gift of it."

The curvilinear outer contours of the Bull are sawn from 5/8" plywood, the panels of which are superimposed on one another. On each side of these plywood panels Picasso has articulated the inner structure of his image in abstract fashion, nailing, glueing and stapling to its sides branches, pieces of broomstick, palm frond stems, and on one side a small picture-stretcher--among other bits of wood he rescued from around his house and studio. The face of the Bull on one side is outlined by the small stretcher, within which two screw heads indicate the eyes and a little wood ball the nose, while the mouth is represented by a horizontal depression in the plywood. The Bull's hair is represented in various areas by clusters of

small nail heads. "This piece is absolutely unique in Picasso's oeuvre," said Mr. Rubin, "and it represents a wonderful addition to our collection of Picasso sculpture, which contains none of Picasso's wood sculpture, nor anything else even vaguely like the Bull."

The Bull is one of three works which Jacqueline Picasso has given to The Museum of Modern Art in honor of her late husband. Last year the Museum received the plaster of the largest of a series of heads of Marie-Thérèse Walter that Picasso executed in Boisgeloup in 1932--it will be the centerpiece of the room containing the Picasso's of the 1930's in the installation of the newly built galleries when they open next Spring. She has also given the Museum the original plaster of a 1933 sculpture called Head of a Warrior.

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