

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
July 1992

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PUBLISHES *PICASSO AND BRAQUE: A SYMPOSIUM*

In September 1992 The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a book that documents a four-day symposium held at the Museum on November 10-13, 1989, during **PICASSO AND BRAQUE: PIONEERING CUBISM**, an exhibition that brought together for the first time almost 400 works by the founders of Cubism. *Picasso and Braque: A Symposium*, which is published with the assistance of the Getty Grant Program, records the papers and discussions of a four-day meeting of twenty-seven internationally recognized scholars in the field of Cubism (see attached list). The topics range from specific points of art-historical interpretation to broader issues concerned with the evolving history of modernism. Similarly, the participants represent a wide spectrum of viewpoints and historical methods.

Unlike a catalogue, which by its nature is produced before an exhibition opens, *Picasso and Braque: A Symposium* reflects the insights the participants gained by seeing the works together. As such it is a vivid example of the unfolding of art history.

Like the symposium, which was organized by William Rubin, director emeritus of the Department of Painting and Sculpture and curator of the exhibition, the book is divided into seven sections: each comprises a paper delivered by one of the participants, followed by an edited transcript of the ensuing discussion. These animated interchanges form a major portion of the volume. Lynn Zelevansky, curatorial assistant, Department of Painting and

Sculpture, administered all editorial aspects of *Picasso and Braque: A Symposium*.

The book maintains as much as possible the tone and spontaneous character of the actual sessions. Participants in the symposium were not directed to stay within the subject of each session's opening talk, but were free to address any problems or questions they considered significant. The result makes for extremely lively, often provocative reading, and affords a rare opportunity to share exchanges among a number of the most important minds in the field of modern art history today. While the book is required reading for scholars and serious students of modern art, it also offers the novice unique insights into the nuts and bolts of the discipline of art history.

Picasso and Braque: A Symposium includes two appendices. "Notes on the Dating of Works," compiled by Pepe Karmel, is an annotated list of revised dates for some of the works in the exhibition, and an essay by Pierre Daix deals with the chronology of "proto-Cubism." The 360-page book has 277 black-and-white illustrations. It is published by The Museum of Modern Art and distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., and elsewhere by Thames and Hudson Ltd., London. Both paperbound (\$35.00) and hardbound (\$50.00) will be available in The MoMA Book Store.

* * *

No. 48

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.