

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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LARGEST PICASSO EXHIBITION EVER SHOWN IN U.S. WILL MARK MUSEUM'S HALF CENTURY
SPONSORED BY I.B.M. EXHIBITION WILL OCCUPY ENTIRE MUSEUM
WORKS FROM PICASSO LEGACY INCLUDED IN SHOW

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, The Museum of Modern Art will present the most comprehensive exhibition of Picasso's art ever shown in the United States. PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE will be on view at the Museum for a four-month period from May 1 to September 16, 1980. This landmark exhibition will consist of over 700 works in every medium in which the artist worked--painting, sculpture, ceramics, theater and costume design, drawings, and prints. Generously lent by private and public collections from all over the world, these works span the long creative life of this master, generally acknowledged to be the most central figure of 20th century art.

The French National Museums are saluting the Museum's anniversary by collaborating in the organization of the exhibition. It will be co-directed by William Rubin, Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, and Dominique Bozo, the curator responsible for the future National Picasso Museum of Paris. PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE is made possible by the IBM Corporation. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. Charitable Trust, and a federal indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

For the first time since the establishment of its present galleries, the Museum will devote all of its gallery space, including its second and third floors, which are normally reserved for selections from its permanent Collection, to a single exhibition. PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE will be a particularly appropriate celebration of the Museum's 50th Anniversary: not only does Picasso's work stylistically and chronologically encompass more of 20th century art than that of any other artist, but a few years hence, circumstances will render it impossible to bring together major groups of Picasso's works that will be united in this exhibition.

Works of major importance will come from the museums of Moscow, Leningrad, Barcelona, Prague, London, and Paris, as well as from other institutions and public and private collections throughout this country and abroad. The largest single group of works will be drawn from the artist's legacy, now in the course of settlement. It is planned that these works will be exhibited in the Grand Palais in Paris next autumn, prior to their definitive installation in the future Picasso Museum, which is anticipated to open in Paris in 1981. This group of works will also be shown in Minneapolis at the Walker Art Center from February 9 to April 1, 1980 before coming to New York for inclusion in this retrospective.

A fully illustrated catalogue containing essays by Mr. Rubin and Mr. Bozo, a chronology, and documentary material will be published by the Museum in conjunction with the exhibition.

"While many Picasso exhibitions have been held in the United States, in no previous exhibition has it been possible to consider the assembled work of his entire eight decades in depth and continuity," notes Mr. Rubin.

"More than any other artist--only Matisse can present a rival claim-- Picasso has been the seminal figure of 20th century art. No other artist has worked in so many of the styles and mediums that body forth the concerns of modern art."

Picasso has been importantly represented in the Museum's program since its earlier years. Under the leadership of the Museum's first Director, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., work by Picasso was presented in one of the Museum's first exhibitions in 1930, and in such pioneering group shows as CUBISM AND ABSTRACT ART of 1936. In addition, Barr organized Picasso anniversary exhibitions in 1939, 1957, and 1962 (in collaboration with Dorothy C. Miller and William S. Lieberman) and wrote the book Picasso: 50 Years of His Art, a standard reference work in English. In 1968 the Museum's then Director René d'Harnoncourt, in collaboration with Picasso's friend, Roland Penrose, presented THE SCULPTURE OF PICASSO, and in 1972 William Rubin directed PICASSO IN THE COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART and wrote the accompanying catalogue.

In PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE, the American public will for the first time be able to see together every phase of Picasso's work, and in that context his enormous influence and achievement may be more widely studied and appreciated.

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