

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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ADVANCE FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, New York, May 22 - September 16, 1980

DIRECTORS: William S. Rubin, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art

Dominique Bozo, Curator in Charge of the future Musée Picasso, Paris

GENESIS OF THE EXHIBITION:

The idea for the present exhibition emerged from William Rubin's visits with Picasso during the last years of the artist's life. Having had the good fortune not only to observe how Picasso lived but also to see many of the works the artist kept for himself, Rubin found that his image of the artist and his work had been altered as well as expanded. Mr. Rubin's desire to share that experience and perception was the genesis of this massive retrospective.

The progress in the past few years in the settlement of Picasso's estate reopened the way for the sort of comprehensive exhibition Mr. Rubin had envisioned years ago. It also gave the exhibition a special urgency since it was evident that once the best of Picasso's holdings were settled in the future Musée Picasso in Paris, they would not be loaned in such great number again. Another reason for urgency was the fact that The Museum of Modern Art will eventually send "Guernica," Picasso's great antiwar painting of 1937, to Spain. This retrospective will therefore provide the last opportunity to see that work and its studies within the entire context of Picasso's oeuvre.

The project for the exhibition became a collaborative effort between The Museum of Modern Art and the French National Museums, which are celebrating MOMA's 50th Anniversary by joining with the Museum in organizing this unique show. Working closely with Dominique Bozo of the Musée Picasso, Mr. Rubin has designed the show to make clear the continuity and unity of Picasso's work as never before.

