

Picasso

NO 33

PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

MOST COMPREHENSIVE PICASSO EXHIBITION EVER

TO OPEN AT NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE, the most comprehensive exhibition of Picasso's art ever held, will open at The Museum of Modern Art on May 22, 1980. Included will be nearly 1,000 objects representing all mediums in which the artist worked -- painting, sculpture, drawing, collage, printmaking, theater and costume design and ceramics.

Drawn from public and private collections throughout the world, as well as from the Museum's own rich collection, the works in this retrospective present the full range and depth of Picasso's astonishingly productive, seventy-eight-year-long career. Approximately one-third of the Museum-wide exhibition will consist of works that Picasso kept for himself, many of which were rarely if ever exhibited publicly. Continuing through September 16, PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE will reveal as never before the startling versatility, range and quality of the production of this artistic genius whose work is central to an understanding of 20th century art.

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PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE has been made possible by a generous grant from IBM. Additional support has been provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Charitable Trust and the National Endowment for the Arts. An indemnity for the exhibition has been provided by the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

50th Anniversary



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The French National Museums are collaborating in the organization of the exhibition in recognition of The Museum of Modern Art's 50th Anniversary year. Co-directors of the retrospective are William Rubin, Director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture, and Dominique Bozo, Curator-in-Charge of the Musée Picasso, Paris. Of the exhibition, William Rubin has noted that visitors to the Museum "will certainly see more great Picassos than have ever been brought together in any one place." And of Picasso himself, Rubin has observed, "More than a great artist, Picasso was a phenomenon. We have to look back to Leonardo da Vinci to find a comparable inventiveness and range in everything that pertains to seeing. There is virtually nothing in modern art that Picasso has not invented, practiced or at least influenced."

The exhibition gathers together works from 56 museums from all over the world. Among the 152 lenders to PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE are the Museo Picasso in Barcelona, the Kunstmuseum of Basel (Switzerland), The Tate Gallery, London, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Prague, and the Musée National d'Art Moderne-Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. The new Musée Picasso, Paris, has loaned over 200 paintings, sculpture and drawings as well as some

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100 prints. In addition, there will be works on loan from private collectors and galleries throughout the world, including some 100 from the children and grandchildren of the artist whose collections were recently acquired through the settlement of the Picasso estate.

About 30 works in the exhibition have never before been exhibited or reproduced anywhere. Among these are the original cardboard construction for the 1912 Guitar, some extraordinary bullfight drawings of the 1930's, portraits of members of the artist's family and his mistresses, and the wooden original of the large 1956 sculpture Bathers. It is also the first time that the entire series of Picasso's paraphrases of Grünewald's Isenheim Crucifixion will be exhibited. Almost 300 works have never been exhibited before in America, and, with the exception of the recent showing of the Musée Picasso material in Minneapolis, over one-half of all works in PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE have never before been seen in the United States.

The entire Museum is being devoted to the works of Pablo Picasso. During the exhibition, some 230 works from the Museum's permanent collection, usually on view in the galleries, have been loaned to museums in this country and in Europe. Many of the best-known works have been divided between The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Brooklyn Museum, thus ensuring that summer visitors to New York have the opportunity to view the core of the Museum's collection. Other museums receiving works from The Museum of Modern Art include The Art Institute of Chicago, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts,

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the Musée National d'Art Moderne-Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, The Tate Gallery, London, and the Hamburg (Germany) Kunsthalle.

PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE has been organized and installed chronologically. The first-floor galleries are devoted to works dating from 1894 through 1909. First Communion (1895), which the artist painted at age 15, is on loan from the Museo Picasso, Barcelona; also on view there is Picasso's Self-Portrait (1907), which has been loaned by the National Gallery in Prague.

The second-floor galleries encompass works executed between 1910 and 1931. Among them are the drawings, Head of a Man (1910) and Portrait of Igor Stravinsky (1920), a 1912 collage, Bottle of Suze, and a Cubist sculpture, Violin (1915), which had been part of Picasso's own collection until his death, and which is now included in the Musée Picasso's collection. Also on view will be the painting, The Dance (1925), on special loan for the exhibition from The Tate Gallery, London.

Installed on the third floor are works Picasso did between 1931 and 1972. Two oils, Bather with Beach Ball (1932) and The Kitchen (1948), a highly abstract linear rendition of the utensils and furniture in Picasso's own kitchen in Paris, are exhibited, as is the bronze sculpture, Head of a Woman (1932) from the Musée Picasso. Ceramics such as Plate with Fish (1957), a medium in which Picasso began working during the 1940's, are also on view.

An ancillary installation on the third floor is devoted to Picasso's prints. It has been organized by Riva Castleman, Director of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books, in collaboration

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with Alexandra Schwartz, Assistant Curator in that department. Over 160 prints and 9 illustrated books trace the progressive states of Picasso's development as a printmaker from 1904 to 1972. Among the works shown are The Frugal Repast (a 1904 etching from the Museum's own collection). Five states of the 1935 etching Minotauromachy are also on view.

In conjunction with the exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a major book, Pablo Picasso: A Retrospective. Edited by William Rubin, the volume includes a lengthy chronology of Picasso's life by Jane Fluegel, and introductions by Mr. Rubin, Dominique Bozo, Hubert Landais, Director of the Musées de France, and Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of The Museum of Modern Art. The book is the most complete pictorial summation of Picasso's oeuvre yet to appear in a single volume, featuring some 758 illustrations, over 200 of which are in color, and more than 180 reference illustrations.

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.
