

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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STATEMENT BY GJON MILI ACCOMPANYING HIS PHOTOGRAPHS OF PICASSO

"Picasso's space drawings are patterns traced in space with a flashlight which is held as a pencil in hand. As distinct from the usual pencil to paper drawing they are executed with more of a bodily rather than the normal arm and wrist movement. Six such 'space drawings' which were photographed in a blackened room so that only the light pattern would register on the film are on view.

"At other times, while Picasso was drawing and while the camera was open in the dark, lights were momentarily flashed once or several times. The photographs thus taken show a completed 'space drawing' as well as the artist's facial expressions and bodily movements during the process of work.

"Two cameras were operated simultaneously: sometimes to record the same drawing from two different angles and sometimes to photograph from the same point of view in black and white and in color.

"The time required for the execution of these 'space drawings' ranged from about 5 seconds for the simpler abstracts to about 30 seconds for the more complex human and animal representations.

"The variation in thickness of line in each drawing is significant. The thinner the line, the faster the light movement, precision is deemed unimportant; conversely, the heavier the line, the slower the travel and the greater the artist's concern with explicit form and detail.

"Apart from several failures due to technical difficulties and a few duplicates omitted, the photographs exhibited here constitute the whole 'take'. The photographs were made in Picasso's home and the Madoura pottery shops in Vallauris. It took 5 sessions, each lasting approximately one hour; the time, August 1949.

"When confronted with the results, Picasso had this to say: 'This delights me. I must think, I must do much more.'"