

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PORTRAIT OF PICASSO BY ROLAND PENROSE; 96 PAGES; 228 PLATES (2 IN COLOR).
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PORTRAIT OF PICASSO by Roland Penrose, an unusual pictorial biography, will be published by the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, on May 22 to coincide with the opening of the Museum's major summer exhibition PICASSO: 75TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION.

More than 200 paintings and photographs of the surroundings in which Picasso was born and in which he has chosen to live, the friends he has made and the women who have shared his intimacy have been assembled to make a unique visual record of the man who at the age of 75 is "more widely known during his lifetime than any painter throughout history," Mr. Penrose says. A clearly written text serves as a continuous caption in telling the story of the artist's life.

The extraordinary talent of the young Picasso is shown by reproductions of portraits the teen-age artist painted of his mother and father. His arrival in Paris in 1904 is recorded by amusing self-caricatures and the friends of the early years are revealed in photographs and drawings--Picasso with Fernande, Picasso dressed in the uniform of George Braques, portraits of Gertrude and Leo Stein, early cubist portraits and photographs of the friends who sat for them.

Picasso in Rome with the Russian Ballet, sitting with scene painters on the drop curtain of "Parade", a ballet for which he designed sets and costumes, Picasso and his wife Olga, former ballet dancer, at a ball in Paris, at a fancy dress party in Antibes, with their son Paul and paintings of Paul by his father carry the record into the 1920's. Later photographs show Picasso with other friends who have shared his life and whom he has painted. Jaime Sabartes, his secretary and biographer, Dora Maar, Françoise Gilot and their two children, and recently Jacqueline Roque, whose beauty is the theme of many of the paintings Picasso has produced at his present home, the villa "La Californie" at Cannes. Picasso painting Guernica, Picasso attending a bullfight, Picasso at the beach, Picasso at the Madura pottery at Vallauris are typical of the activities recorded and preserved by the camera, sometimes casually by a friend, sometimes by world-famous professional photographers.

The studios in which Picasso has worked surrounded by objects that amuse and interest him are shown: The Bateau Lavoir, in the early days in Paris, the Chateau at Boisgeloup in Normandy bought in 1930, the ancient house at 7 rue des Grands Augustins in Paris, the castle at Antibes, the studio at Vallauris, where Picasso renewed his interest in sculpture, and his present villa at Cannes.

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The author, a friend and admirer of Picasso and a well known critic and collector, says "It is my belief that although it cannot be complete, this may serve as a background against which it will become easier to understand both the revolutionary changes that have taken place periodically and the less obvious stream of continuity that runs persistently through his work."

Originally published in England in connection with an exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London, the American edition has been expanded by the addition of a chapter which emphasizes Picasso's Collection. It is being distributed by Simon and Schuster and is sold at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, and by mail order from the Museum. Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the exhibition, has contributed the preface to the book.

Review copies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. Circle 5-8900.