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"Later he said everybody says that she does not look like it but that does not make any difference, she will, he said."

This is how Gertrude Stein described Picasso's attitude toward her portrait which he painted in the course of 90 sittings. It was 1905 and Picasso was 24 years old. Miss Stein, her brothers, Leo and Michael and Michael's wife, Sarah, had just settled in Paris and were beginning to buy works by pioneers of 20th century art.

The paintings, sculpture, prints and drawings which this extraordinary American family gathered were eventually sold. They have now been re-assembled from public and private collections all over the world and will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art in New York from December 19 through March 1st. Sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, the exhibition includes great masterpieces by Picasso and Matisse, among others, as well as such intimate pictures as Homage to Gertrude, a wooden panel painted by Picasso that Gertrude Stein tacked on the ceiling over her bed.

Picasso's portrait of Gertrude Stein is one of several paintings of members of the family in the exhibition which will be shown in slightly different versions in San Francisco, Baltimore and Canada.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd St., New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7501.