

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.

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CONTENTS: This is the most comprehensive exhibition of Picasso's art ever shown in the United States. Organized chronologically, it will display over 970 objects, including approximately 380 paintings, 80 sculptures, 155 collages and works in mixed media, 165 drawings, 200 prints and 10 ceramics. Of these, over 200 of the paintings, sculptures, works in mixed media and drawings, plus nearly 100 prints, many of which are unique, will be from those in the Picasso estate selected for the new Musée Picasso in Paris. Another 100 works in all media will be drawn from the collections of Picasso's six heirs. The remaining 500 works have been borrowed from museums, and public and private collections throughout the world.

For the first time since the establishment of its present galleries, the Museum will devote all of its gallery space, including its second and third floors, which are normally reserved for selections from its permanent collection, to a single exhibition. During the course of the exhibition, works usually seen in the galleries will be on special loan to various museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Brooklyn Museum and the Musée National d'Art Moderne-Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

BOOK: Pablo Picasso: A Retrospective. Introductions by William S. Rubin, Dominique Bozo, Hubert Landais, and Richard E. Oldenburg. 464 pages; 785 illustrations (200 in color) and 150 reference illustrations. \$45.00 hardbound; \$19.95 paperbound. Published and distributed by The Museum of Modern Art.

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