

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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PICASSO GRAPHICS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTION

MARK CENTENARY OF ARTIST'S BIRTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. October 20, 1981. October 25 is the one-hundredth anniversary of Pablo Picasso's birth. On this occasion, the National Gallery of Art will open an exhibition entitled The Morton G. Neumann Family Collection: Picasso Prints and Drawings, offering 100 outstanding graphic works by this modern master.

Selected from one of the most comprehensive private collections of modern art in the United States, the exhibition surveys Picasso's work on paper from 1904 to 1968, extending across the many periods of the artist's long career. The exhibition will remain on view through January 24, 1982.

Many of Picasso's most extraordinary prints appear in this exhibition, among them two cubist works, an early collage from 1914 and a gouache entitled Costume Design for "Pulcinella" (1917). A more classical rendering in silverpoint, Nessus and Dejanira (1920), is also included. Ten examples from the Suite Vollard, a series of 100 works begun by Picasso in 1930 and completed in 1937, are on view, including an aquatint entitled Blind Minotaur Led through the Night (1934), which contains some of the artist's most expressive psychological imagery. Woman Seated in a Wicker Chair (Dora Maar) (1938), a highly abstract ink drawing characterized by flat, geometric forms, concludes the work of the 1930s. Among examples produced by Picasso after World War II are lithographs entitled The Bull (1946), one of the artist's most economical and well-known images, and Armchair Woman No. 1 (The Polish

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Coat), (1949), in which Picasso combined traditional depiction of a woman's face and more abstract treatment of her torso and puffy sleeves.

The exhibition also offers eighteen linocuts, graphics made from carved blocks of linoleum, a form of printmaking to which Picasso turned after he left Paris for the south of France in 1958. In addition to the richly colored, traditionally produced Bust of a Woman after Cranach the Younger (1958), it includes examples illustrating his inventive use of one linoleum block to print several separate color states, as well as his wide range of subjects and styles. Among such works on view are The Lance (1959), which portrays a bullfight, Still Life under Lamp (1962), which recalls the brushwork and palette of Van Gogh, and Woman with Hat (1963), which alludes to Spanish court painters of earlier centuries. Six drawings from this period are also included, presenting the artist in his studio or mythological subjects, the two major themes of Picasso's later years.

E.A. Carmean, Jr., curator of 20th-century art at the National Gallery, has organized the exhibition and has written the fully illustrated catalogue accompanying it. It is the second lent to the National Gallery by the Morton G. Neumann family. In 1980, the Gallery organized a major exhibition of 138 paintings, drawings and sculpture from the collection, containing 20th-century art from early cubism to current pattern painting. In preparing that survey exhibition, it was discovered that Mr. Neumann, who had known Picasso personally, had assembled such a wide-ranging selection of that artist's graphic works as to suggest an exhibition devoted entirely to it. The occasion of Picasso's centenary suggested a fitting opportunity to give the public access to this extraordinary body of material.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Mary Dyer, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 842-6353.