

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF PICASSO BY GJON MILI AND BY ROBERT CAPA REVEAL NEW ASPECTS OF BOTH THE ARTIST AND THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

A group of recent photographs by Gjon Mili of Picasso making "space drawings" with a pencil of light will be exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from January 25 through March 19. The photographs, which utilize a new technique devised by Mili, will be shown in co-operation with Life magazine.

In an adjacent gallery a series of candid camera photographs by Robert Capa of Magnum show Picasso at home with Françoise, Paloma and Claude. These two series of photographs were taken last summer while the two photographers were visiting Picasso and his family in Vallauris in the Alpes-Maritimes in France. The joint exhibition was designed and arranged by Edward Steichen, Director of the Department of Photography. It will be installed in galleries on the 1st floor of the Museum.

The exhibition will include about 40 photographs, 8 of which are in color, from those made by GJON MILI who got Picasso to draw in space with a pencil flashlight while the film made the only record of these creative works. Immediately recognizable as works by Picasso, these "drawings" were made with the whole body rather than by a hand or arm motion only. This motion and the artist's concentration are also shown in Mili's photographs, for successive strobe exposures show Picasso in the act of making the drawing.

Some of the "space drawings" are shown in large transparencies mounted in shadow boxes, and one will be projected into space against a gauze curtain. Others are shown in large blowups, including a photo-mural 10' by 12'.

Mili varied his approach, sometimes using color, sometimes a double pencil light, sometimes several cameras, which also has made for variety in the results as shown in the exhibition. The same "space drawing" seen from 2 or 3 different angles by different cameras make a new kind of 3-dimensional study which, Mili reports, opened up new experimental vistas to Picasso himself.

ROBERT CAPA, on his visit with the Picasso family, recorded the leisure activities of the Picasso household. Most of his photographs were taken up in the hills in the leafy patterned light and shade of the garden of Picasso's home. Some are beach pictures of the family

on the Mediterranean. One sequence, which shows Picasso talking, records his expressive gestures. A number show Picasso with his children, sometimes holding the baby girl, Paloma; while others show his young son, Claude, first as a baby, then a year later. These 20 photographs by Capa show Picasso just as enthusiastic and successful a father as he is an artist.

Mr. Steichen has commented on the exhibition as follows:

"This exhibition contributes an illuminating chapter to the biography of a man who for more than five decades has actively and continuously been the most controversial figure in the art world.

"The 'space drawing' technique devised by Gjon Mili has provided another exciting medium for Picasso. The lens follows every move of a point of light held as a pencil in the artist's hand and records on film the completed picture of what he himself saw only in his mind's eye. With successive strobe light exposure made during the drawing, there is also recorded with the drawing and for the first time, an artist's facial expression while in the process of working. Picasso's eyes rarely look on his drawing hand, but intensely concentrate on the image he mentally projects into space. These remarkable photographs chalk up another achievement to the credit of Gjon Mili's long line of richly fertile experiments with new techniques in the field of creative photography.

"In these images of Picasso and his family, Robert Capa stresses the everyday human side of the man. These are warm friendly images with sharp flashes of the typical Capa gaiety. In this group of pictures, the hopeful aspirations of millions of family snapshot albums is realized by a master journalist photographer."

To accompany these photographs of Picasso, the Museum will exhibit in an adjacent gallery a painting and a group of prints by Picasso, recently acquired by the Museum, which are related in form and in some cases in subject matter to the photographic "space drawings."