

The Museum of Modern Art

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PICASSO AND PORTRAITURE Representation and Transformation

- DATES** April 28 - September 17, 1996
- ORGANIZATION** Organized by William S. Rubin, Director Emeritus, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Paris. A Picasso scholar, Mr. Rubin also organized PICASSO AND BRAQUE: PIONEERING CUBISM (1989) and PABLO PICASSO: A RETROSPECTIVE (1980).
- THE EXHIBITION** This major exhibition, which has its only United States showing in New York, presents the first comprehensive survey of the portrait work of Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). Beginning with early studies from the artist's years in Barcelona, the exhibition moves through Picasso's life via intimate portrayals of his family, lovers, and friends. Together this body of work has redefined the meaning of representation to an extent unequaled by any other painter in the twentieth century. New research reveals the identity of subjects, who for years were previously unknown or thought to be invented.
- Picasso painted his sitters repeatedly and in widely divergent styles. The contrasting insights reflected in his multiple portraits are underscored by groupings of works according to subject. Within each group, works are presented more or less chronologically. Thus, Picasso's childhood friend and later secretary, Jaime Sabartés, is seen in a series of diverse works that span three decades and numerous styles. The poet Max Jacob is rendered in a manner influenced by tribal art and subsequently as an almost Ingresque neoclassical figure. Depictions of Fernande Olivier, Picasso's first great love, range from the Rose period to the so-called Iberian mode, and then progress into full-blown Cubism. Olga Picasso, the artist's wife in the 1920s, is seen in a wide variety of guises, spanning the classical ideal to the Surrealist femme fatale. The exhibition also presents an exceptionally rich group of paintings of his last wife, Jacqueline, and ends with a selection of self-portraits representing a period of more than eighty years.

