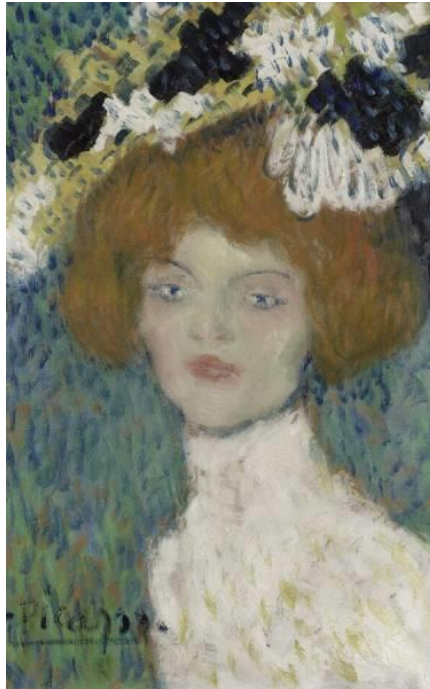


Press Release | New Exhibition

9 December 2021

Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth



Tête de jeune femme (la Madrilèna)/Portrait of a Young Woman (The Madrilenian), Pablo Picasso, c.1901
© Succession Picasso/DACS, London 2021

Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth: 13 March – 17 July 2022

Press View: Friday 11 March 2022, 12-2pm. More details to follow.

High-resolution images available for download: <https://bit.ly/3Ge3pUB>

Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth is a focussed exhibition which looks at the early artistic formation of Pablo Picasso, from his teenage years to his thirties (1896 – 1914). The exhibition traces the artist's progress, from his childhood in Malaga to his rise in Paris as acknowledged leader of the international avant-garde. It compares his achievement with the artists he admired and made use of, including Monet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Bonnard, Gauguin and Redon. Rarely seen paintings and drawings will be shown alongside more familiar works.

Picasso had mastered a variety of styles depicting a wide range of subject matter before he had even turned 20, a greater accomplishment than most artists could ever hope to achieve. By concentrating on this formative stage, *The Legacy of Youth* demonstrates how Picasso fed off the efforts of others, before developing his own idioms for depicting the contemporary world. He also freely appropriated material from diverse cultures while developing a visual language rich in personal symbolism.

As he moved through adolescence, the young artist recognised that society was increasingly in a process of permanent transformation, under the inevitable pressures of modernisation. He realised that the emergence of Modern art through the last quarter of the century was a product of this transformation. Throughout his life, Picasso would feel the tension between modernity and the histories it replaced. He would also struggle with the role of the individual in this new environment.

Exhibition curator Professor Paul Greenhalgh says:

“We tend to forget that Picasso wasn’t simply a figurehead of the Modern Age. He grew up in the 19th century: the extraordinary mixture of values that was fin de siècle Europe penetrated deep into his personality, remaining with him through his life. While he was the quintessential Modern in so many ways, he was also a Victorian, and this duality explains the complexity of his genius.”

With over 20 works by Picasso including paintings, drawings and prints, the exhibition shows how the young artist embraced successive styles at large in the art world of his time. Opening with an introduction to Picasso’s family background and artistic education, the exhibition leads into an Impressionist ‘salon’ with works by Claude Monet, Pierre Bonnard, Edgar Degas, Berthe Morisot, and George Seurat. *The Legacy of Youth* recreates the freshness of Picasso’s stylistic encounter with successive waves of Impressionism, Symbolism and Post-Impressionism. A Cubist ‘salon’ shows works by Picasso alongside Henri Laurens, Jean Metzinger, Juan Gris and Ossip Zadkine and suggests that these early innovations remained core to Picasso’s later stylistic developments.

An accompanying book is due to be published in March 2022 which will explore the key works and themes of the exhibition.

Tickets will be available to buy online at sainsburycentre.ac.uk from 1 February 2022, £13/£12 concessions. Free parking subject to availability, two cafes, shop.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

Press Enquiries

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Exhibition Information

Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth

13 March – 17 July 2022

Tickets £13/£12 concessions, on sale from 1 February 2022

Visit sainsburycentre.ac.uk or call 01603 593199 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)

Follow @sainsburycentre on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram #TheLegacyOfYouth

About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. It was founded in 1973 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation's great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late 20th century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Elisabeth Frink, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Sonia Delaunay, Tess Jaray, Francis Bacon, Cornelia Parker, Jean Arp, Mary Martin, Rachel Kneebone and Amedeo Modigliani. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Medieval Europe. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England.

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