



Picasso--The Early Years, 1892-1906

By Pablo Picasso, Marilyn McCully, Natasha Staller, National Gallery of Art (U. S.)



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This text is the catalogue for the spring 1997 exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the summer 1997 exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The exhibitions focus on Picasso's early work: the Bleu period; the Rose period; and the 1906 work devoted to the female nude.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This collection of essays focuses on Pablo Picasso's formative years as an artist, specifically the period between 1892 and 1906 when--between the ages of 11 and 24--he was developing and refining the style that would one day launch movements. The hundreds of drawings and plates vividly displayed here range from the familiar to the obscure, allowing the reader to follow the artist's transformation from gifted youth to master of the form. Though the essays vary widely in scope, all the contributors agree that the pieces created during this phase of Picasso's life stand on their own merits, rather than existing merely as studious footnotes to the painter's body of work. Launched from this perspective, the text celebrates this less-celebrated period while moving in some unexpected directions: Picasso's reliance on his drawing education; his friends and influences; and the historical and political background of some of the places in which he lived and worked. In all, a fascinating study of the man and the making of a legendary life.

From Library Journal

Much of Picasso's early work, unknown during his lifetime and hidden in warehoused studios, is now archived and can be studied. This catalog is a rich opportunity to view much work of his formative years?on loan from collections around the world?currently on display at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and traveling to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in the fall. Editor McCully, a collaborator with John Richardson on the first volume of his landmark *A Life of Picasso* (LJ 2/1/91), provides an opening chronology to facilitate an appreciation of the show. Ranging from the political to the technical, the remaining scholarly essays describe a young, idealistic, and pre-Cubist Picasso in the process of learning, influenced by all the changing elements around him and deeply introspective. They provide differing ways of seeing the artist based on new knowledge about him. The book is fully illustrated with 115 black-and-white and 200 color plates, many from the artist's blue- and rose-period paintings. Recommended for all modern art collections.?Ellen Bates, M.L.S., New York
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