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Publication Notice

P i c a s s o ' s

Paintings, Watercolors, Drawings and Sculpture
A Comprehensive Illustrated Catalogue 1885-1973

The Final Years

1970-1973

The Picasso Project

Publication date: January 1, 2004. ISBN 1-55660-305-3
\$150.00. 384 pages. Fully Illustrated

Picasso is eighty-nine in January of 1970. He produces more than 1,000 works from 1970 through 1973, many of which have erotic themes. The artist continues to reside at Notre-Dame-de-Vie in Mougins in the south of France. He dies on April 8, 1973 at age 91.

During 1970, Picasso paints a number of figures, often of a woman with prominent breasts. There are numerous love making scenes and images of a nude being entertained by men. The painter also appears in many guises and at different historical and chronological ages. The artists is variously a young man, a middle-aged man and an old man.

A matador/torero becomes part of a family grouping, with a bare-breasted mother and a sexually precocious boy. In another series of images, a flutist, a guitar player and a lover entertain a reclining nude. The harlequin often appears, as well as a musketeer and other masculine types. In December of 1970, Pierrot appears together with the harlequin.

January of 1971 begins with a series of distorted heads of harlequins and of Pierrot. Picasso does a series of two-sided portraits sometimes with half of the face being masculine and half feminine. In February, Picasso begins a series of erotic scenes.

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A series of mid-year paintings depict a woman kissing a bird. These are followed by a series of sketches of nude or bare-breasted women, often with male observers. Picasso paints a number of busts: boys, men and bare-breasted women. Busts of a haggard male follow these, which are subsequently followed by a bare-breasted woman or a woman who is holding open her genitalia.

In the summer of 1971, Picasso creates in image of a bare-breasted woman with a male flutist and a child, called *Fatherhood - Paternité* and a similar image of a mother and child. After a following series of dissimilar heads, Picasso paints and draws five with elongated (phallic) noses. Picasso then focuses on a female, often exposing her vagina, and with a voluptuous nude exposing her herself, usually to impassive males.

During 1972, Picasso paints a musketeer in various poses. There are also pictures of two nude women in suggestive poses, a Mardi Gras figure, and the only landscape of Mougins from this period. Picasso then concentrates on portraits of musketeers and nudes in erotic poses.

Following is *The Embrace*, a large oil painting with the male organ in the foreground. Picasso draws a group of harrowing self-portraits, called 'death masks' and a series of heads verging on caricatures. Picasso continues his fixation with women and genitalia. The musketeer frequently returns, sometimes with nudes.

Picasso's last image in this catalogue is a seated male nude dated February 21, 1973.