



Picasso's

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

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The Printed Graphic Work (Revised Bloch)	1970–1972
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The
Picasso
Project

Picasso's Paintings, Watercolors, Drawings and Sculpture
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Youth in Spain I
1889-1897

Alan
Wofsy

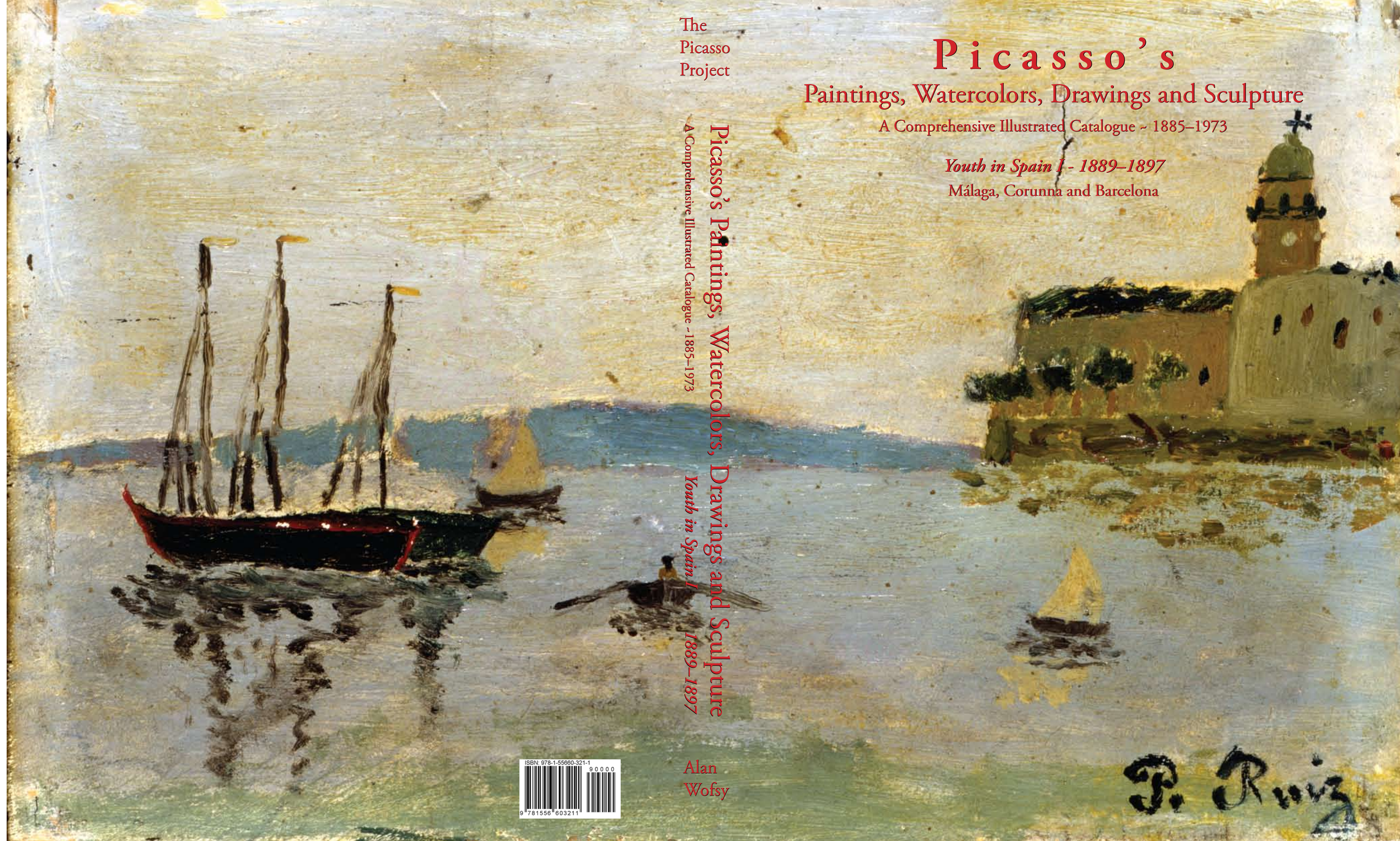
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Youth in Spain I - 1889–1897

Málaga, Corunna and Barcelona



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Picasso in the Nineteenth Century:

Youth in Spain I - 1889–1897

Málaga, Corunna and Barcelona

The Picasso Project

1227 Works Catalogued and Reproduced

Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born in Málaga in the south of Spain in October, 1881. His father don José Ruiz Blasco is an artist, art teacher and curator. In his peripatetic search for new schools in which to teach and for Pablo to learn, don José brings his son to Corunna in the northwest (1891–1895) and Barcelona in the northeast (1895–1897) with annual sojourns to Málaga for summer vacations with the extended family.

Picasso's mother said he could draw before he could speak and it is likely that his first art works date from 1885, especially since there is an extant competent oil painting from 1889, *The Port of Málaga* (reproduced on the dust-jacket).

By the age of 11 or 12, Pablo is already doing serious academic studies and paintings of farmhouses in Corunna. He publishes his own manuscript periodical just before his 12th birthday. At ages 12 and 13, Picasso draws his first self-portraits and a number of portraits of his father, mother and his two sisters.

On the first leg of the annual family trip to Málaga in 1895, Picasso briefly visits the Prado in Madrid for the first time and makes copies after Velázquez. During the summer in Málaga he does a series of portraits of an old fisherman named Salmerón and marine views from the boat on the voyage from Málaga to Barcelona.

The family moves to Barcelona from Corunna in the fall of 1895 following the tragic death of Pablo's youngest sister in January. Picasso enters the celebrated La Llotja art school in Barcelona in September, 1895.

Pablo continues his academic drawings throughout 1895–1896 and does seascapes of the Barcelona harbor and a series of religious pictures, including the well known *First Communion*. He creates penetrating portraits of his parents and himself, a series of religious pictures and his first image in an *art nouveau* style.

He looks years older than his actual age of 14 or 15 in his self-portraits from 1896. The young artist does numerous studies of hands, apparently knowing that this is often the weakest part of a portrait.

During the summer of 1896, Picasso paints a variety of landscapes and mountain scenes in Málaga. He reprises religious themes later that year in Barcelona as well as seascapes, cityscapes, park scenes and figure studies.

Dust-jacket illustration:
Port of Málaga
1889
Oil on panel
Cat. No. 1889-001

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