Pablo Picasso 1881-1973 | Spanish

Buste d'homme barbu

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

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Oil on canvas | Dated 1965

Signed "Picasso" (upper right) and dated "8.4.65" (en verso)

Canvas: 31 1/2" high x 25 1/2" wide | 80.01 cm x 64.77 cm
Frame: 33" high x 27 1/8" wide x 2" deep |
83.82 cm x 68.90 cm x 5.08

Every time I draw a man, I find myself thinking of my father… To me a man means 'Don José,' and it will always be so, all my life… He wore a beard… All the men I draw I see more or less with his features.

- Pablo Picasso

OVERVIEW

The most compelling of Pablo Picasso's works offer a glimpse into the psyche of the master himself. Combining saturated color with a jarring simplicity, *Buste d'homme barbu* represents an important series of bearded men portraits that the artist composed during the last few years of his life. These works are among the most highly personal and intimate of his career, and they serve as remarkable examples of his mature style with their highly modern expressivity.

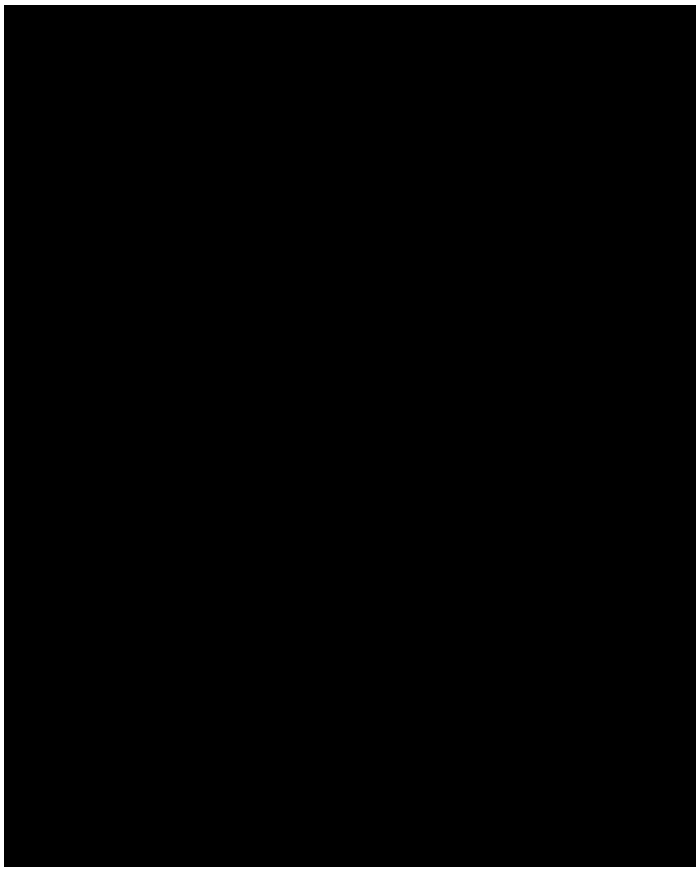
Many of Picasso's works from his last years capture the visage of his wife Jacqueline, who was his chief model during this period. In April, however, at his home studio in Mougins, France, Picasso changed direction and produced a series of individual portraits of men. Often they were self-referential portraits and many referenced the artist's father, Spanish painter José Ruiz y Blasco.

Picasso once said, "Every time I draw a man, I find myself thinking of my father... To me a man means 'Don José,' and it will always be so, all my life... He wore a beard... All the men I draw I see more or less with his features."

While his father's dark mustache and beard are clearly distinguished in *Buste d'homme barbu,* Picasso's portraits of men from the mid-1960s served more as composite, archetypal figures representing vitality and virility. Although he would live eight more years after this work was created in April of 1965, at the age of 84, Picasso was preoccupied with thoughts of aging and mortality. He seemed to combat these thoughts with a burst of youthful, creative energy, and the mid-1960s witnessed an outpouring of productivity from Picasso.

Highly modern and expressionistic, this painting explores an extreme simplification of form, breaking the figure down to its basic essentials. Here you see Picasso's ability to capture the most expressive features of his subjects in just a few choice brushstrokes. His male portraits from this period employ a particular set of facial traits delineated with decisive swoops of color to suggest a nose or a cheekbone, built up on fields of white paint. Composed with a highly simplified palette and sparsity of line, *Buste d'homme barbu* successfully evokes a striking sense of vigor. This character is also endowed with a powerful, hypnotic gaze, the *mirada fuerte*, that Picasso included in many of his portraits. These wide eyes allude both to ancient portraiture and to the artist himself, who was known personally for his strong gaze, an indication that he has projected himself onto the figure.

Born in 1881 in Málaga, Spain, Picasso spent his childhood studying drawing and painting under his father. He spent a year at the Academy of Arts in Madrid, before traveling to Paris in 1900. Landing in the center of the European art world, Picasso quickly established himself as a critical figure in the thriving Parisian art scene. Critics have often divided Picasso's artistic output into distinct phases based on his color scheme and style of painting. It was around 1907 that Picasso became very influenced by African masks and art which began making their way into Parisian museums following the expansion of the French Empire into Africa. The faces and simplified, angular planes of the women in Picasso's *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* clearly derive their style from African masks and sculptures, and *Les Demoiselles* is often heralded as the beginning of Cubism. Other examples of late portraits by Picasso reside in important museums worldwide such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museé Picasso in Paris and the Museu Picasso in Barcelona.



PROVENANCE

Galerie Louise Leiris, Paris

Private collection

Christie's New York, November 14, 1990, Impressionist and modern paintings, and sculpture (part 1), lot 47

Private collection

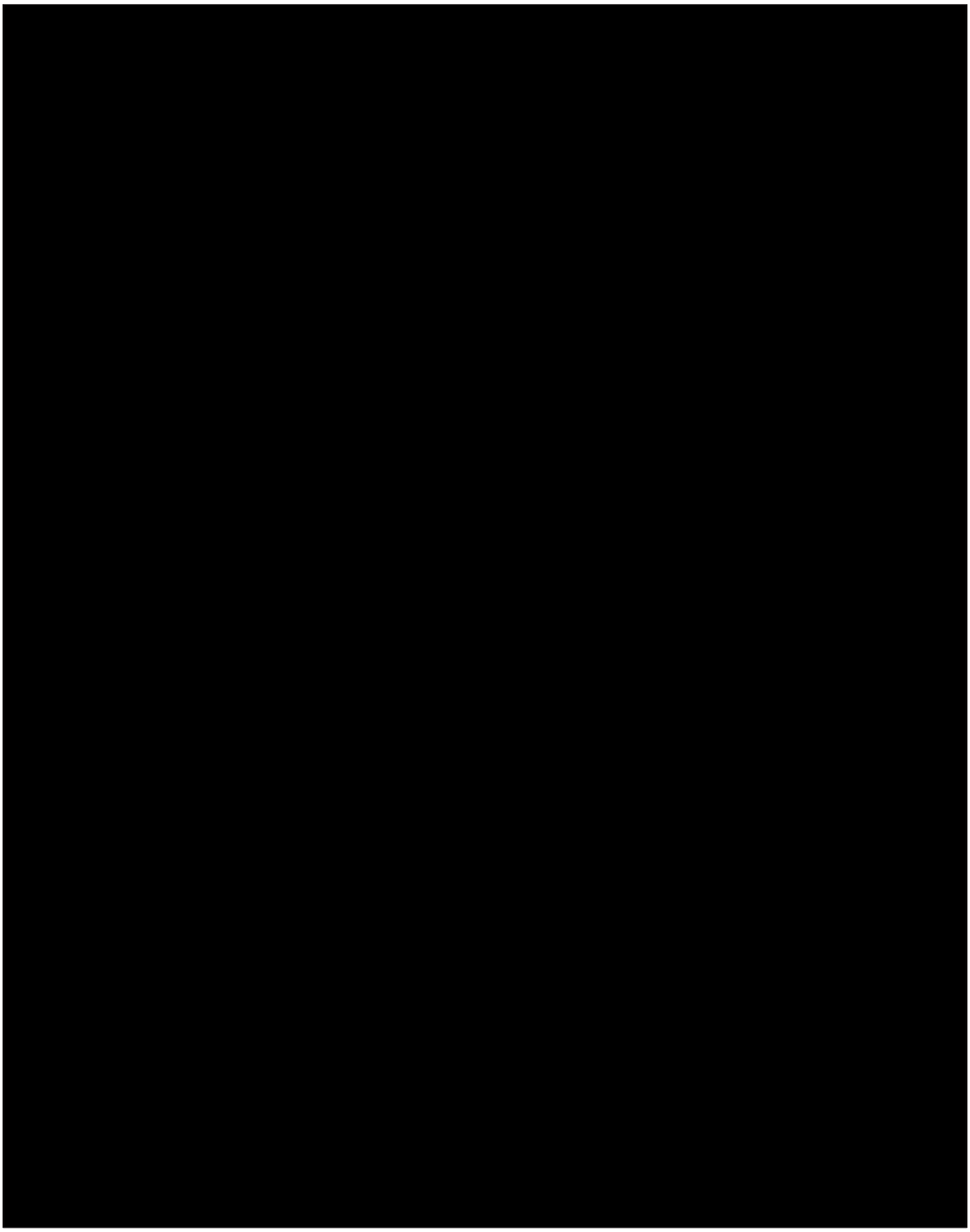
Christie's New York, May 13, 1998, 20th Century Art, lot 238

Private collection, Switzerland

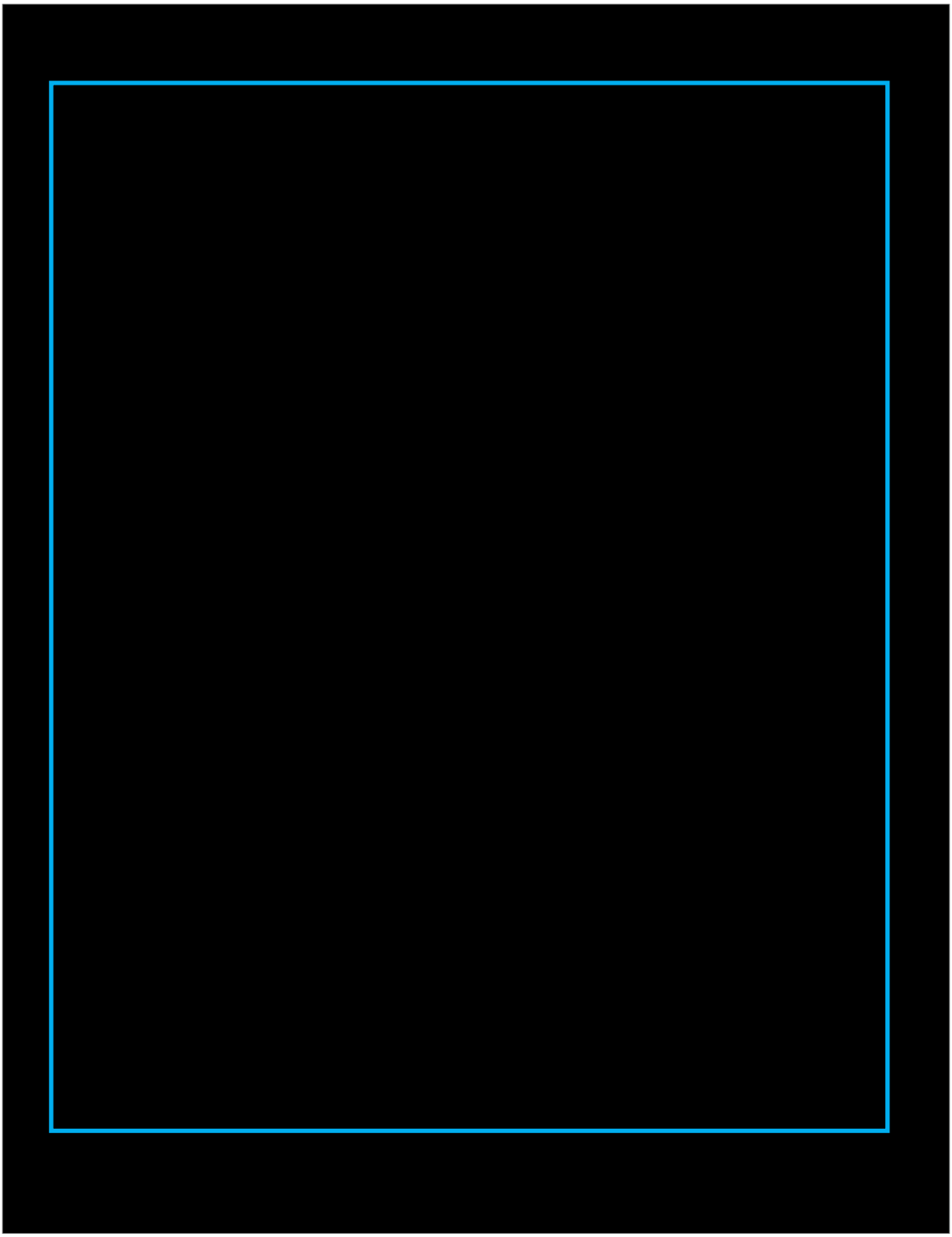
M.S. Rau, New Orleans

LITERATURE

Christian Zervos, *Pablo Picasso*, Vol. 25, Paris, 1971, p. 57, no. 101



Christian Zervos, *Pablo Picasso*, Vol. 25, Paris, 1971, p. 57, no. 101



Christian Zervos, *Pablo Picasso*, Vol. 25, Paris, 1971, p. 57, no. 101

[redacted] 1		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	Buste d'homme
	Description	Property from a Distinguished International CollectorPablo Picasso(1881
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1969
	Size	Height 45.7 in.; Width 35 in. / Height 116 cm.; Width 89 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's Hong Kong: Friday, June 18, 2021 [Lot 00012] Contemporary Curated: Asia | JAY CHOU x SOTHEBY'S | Evening Sale
	Estimate	93,000,000 - 143,000,000 HKD (11,980,213 - 18,421,188 USD)
	Sold For	108,923,000 HKD Premium (14,031,406 USD)
[redacted] 2		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	Tête de femme, Jacqueline
	Description	Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)Tête de femme (Jacqueline)signed 'Picasso' (upper
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1963
	Size	Height 35.5 in.; Width 23 in. / Height 90.2 cm.; Width 58.4 cm.
	Cat. Rais.	63-163, The Picasso Project
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Tuesday, February 2, 2010 [Lot 00029] Impressionist/Modern Evening Sale
	Estimate	3,000,000 - 4,000,000 GBP (4,784,689 - 6,379,585 USD)
	Sold For	8,105,250 GBP Premium (12,927,033 USD)
[redacted] 3		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	Buste de femme assise
	Description	Property from a Private American CollectionPablo Picasso1881 -
	Medium	Oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1962
	Size	Height 28.7 in.; Width 21.3 in. / Height 73 cm.; Width 54 cm.
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 [Lot 00007] Impressionist, Modern & Contemporary Art | An Evening Sale
	Estimate	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 USD
	Sold For	11,179,500 USD Premium

[redacted] 4		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	Femme au grand chapeau. Buste
	Description	Painted on May 31, 1965.Signed Picasso (upper right); dated 31.5.65
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1965
	Size	Height 36.2 in.; Width 28.7 in. / Height 92 cm.; Width 73 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, May 5, 2010 [Lot 00019] Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 USD
	Sold For	9,322,500 USD Premium
[redacted] 5		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	TÊTE DE FEMME
	Description	signed Picasso (upper right); dated 5 (II), 6 Janvier 1963 on the reverseoil on
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1963
	Size	Height 29.1 in.; Width 21.7 in. / Height 73.8 cm.; Width 55 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's London: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 [Lot 00019] Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	5,000,000 - 7,000,000 GBP (6,894,649 - 9,652,509 USD)
	Sold For	6,360,500 GBP Premium (8,770,683 USD)
[redacted] 6		**Picasso Pablo**
	Title	Femme assise en costume rouge sur fond bleu
	Description	signed 'Picasso' (lower left); inscribed and dated 'Vallauris 6.3.53' (on the
	Medium	oil on panel
	Year of Work	1953
	Size	Height 36.2 in.; Width 28.7 in. / Height 91.9 cm.; Width 72.9 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 [Lot 00023] Impressionist & Modern Evening Sale
	Estimate	7,000,000 - 10,000,000 USD
	Sold For	8,523,750 USD Premium

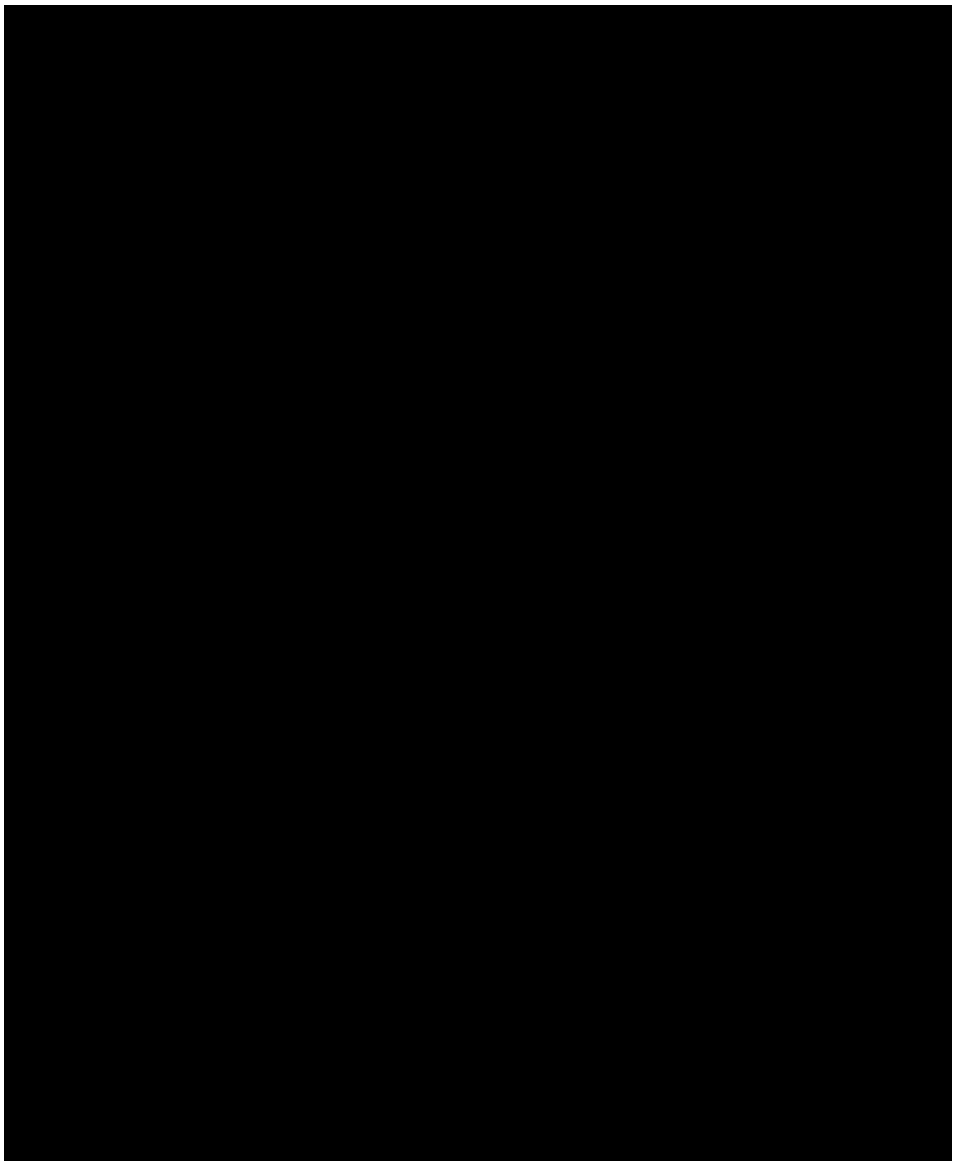
7

	Picasso Pablo
Title	Mousquetaire à la pipe, buste
Description	Drawn Together: The Collection of Marcia and Stanley Gumberg, featuring Modern
Medium	oil and Ripolin on canvas
Year of Work	1967
Size	Height 39.3 in.; Width 31.7 in. / Height 99.7 cm.; Width 80.6 cm.
Misc.	Signed
Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 [Lot 00010] Modern Evening Auction
Estimate	6,000,000 - 8,000,000 USD
Sold For	8,482,400 USD Premium

Pablo Picasso | *Bust of a Man*

1965

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 24 x 19$^{5/8}$ inches | 61 x 50 cm

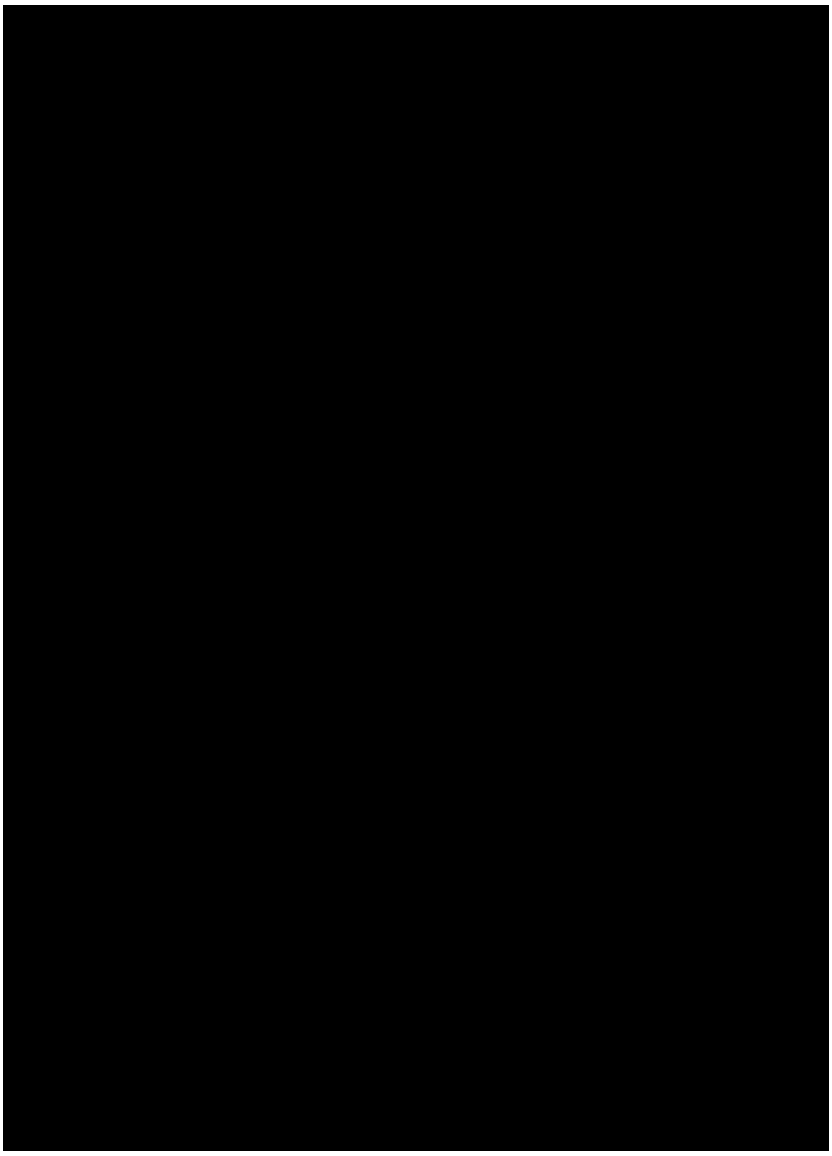


Museo Picasso Málaga
Málaga, Spain

Pablo Picasso | *Las Meninas (Infanta Margarita María)*

1957

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 13 x 9$^{1/2}$ inches | 33 x 24 cm

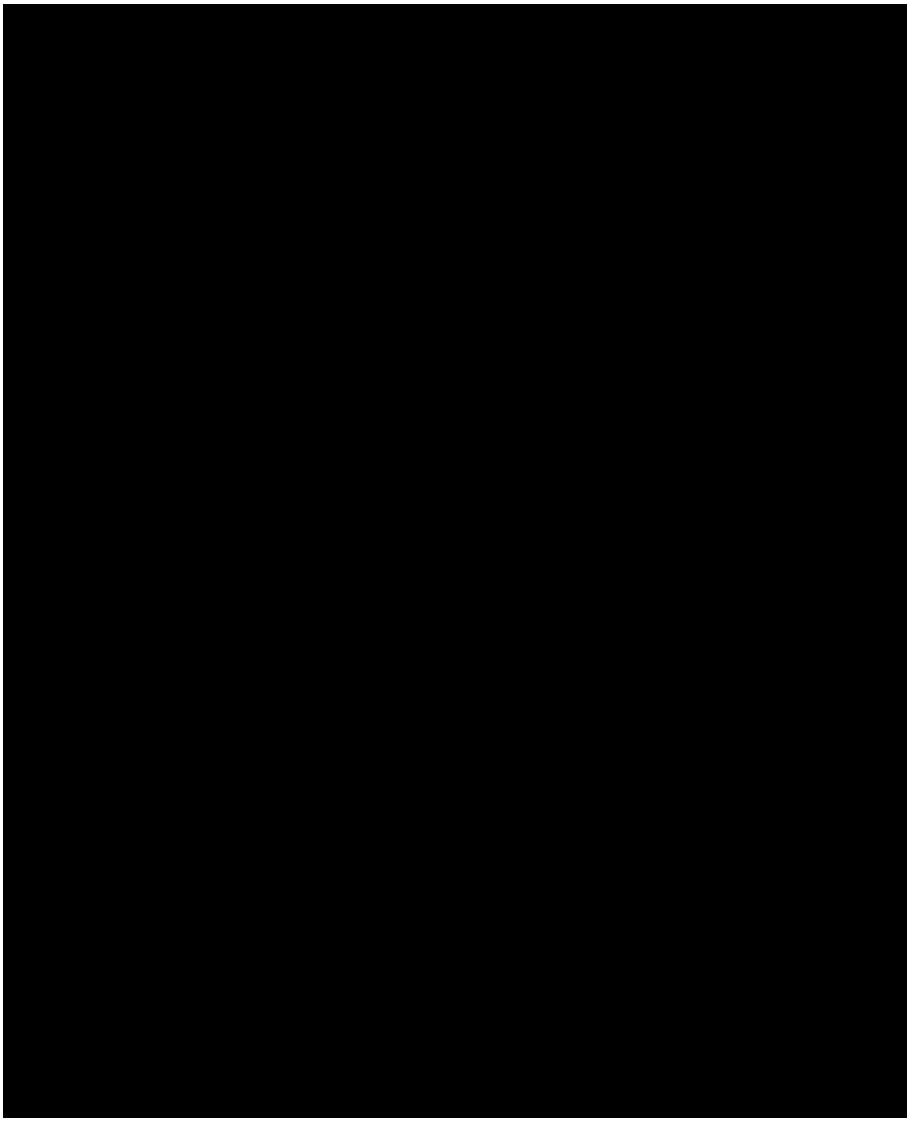


Museu Picasso
Barcelona, Spain

Pablo Picasso | *Painter at Work*

1965

Medium: Oil and Ripolin on canvas
Dimensions: $39^{3/8}$ x $31^{7/8}$ inches | 100 x 81 cm

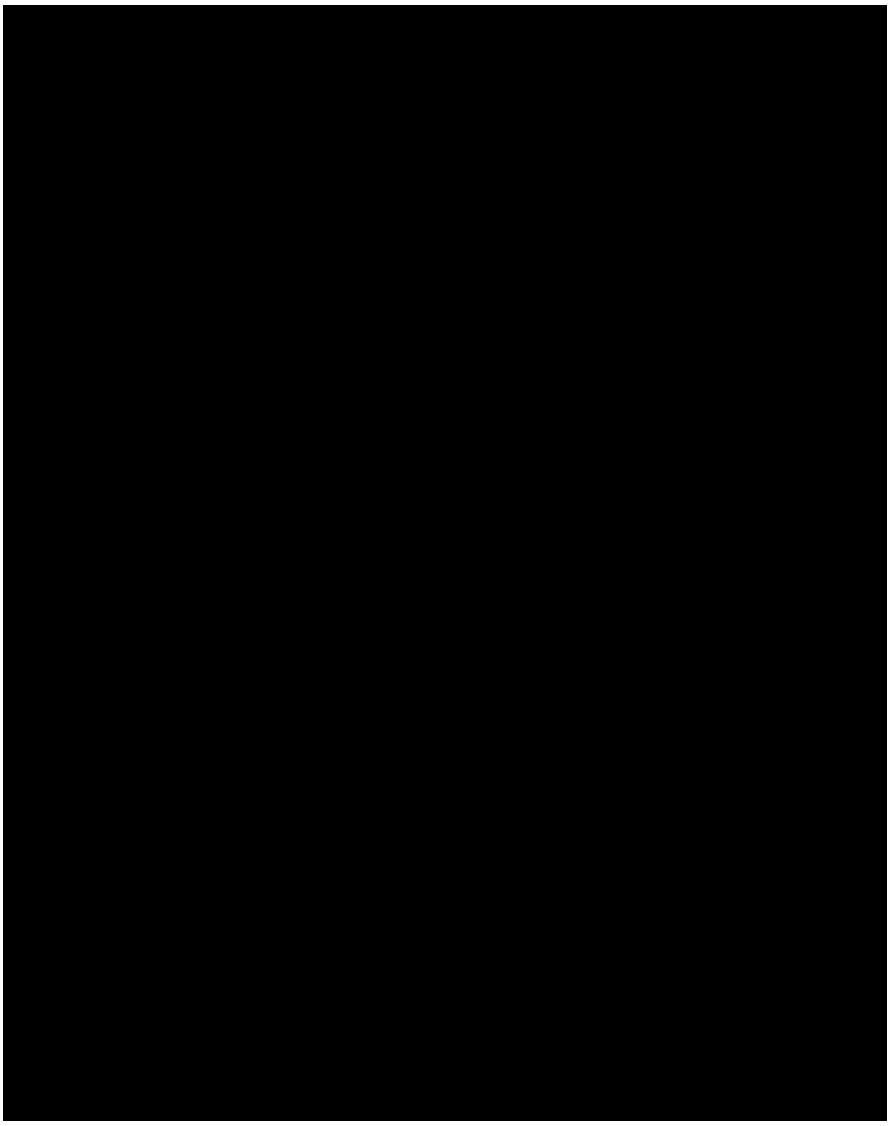


Museu Picasso
Barcelona, Spain

Pablo Picasso | *Las Meninas (Infanta Margarita María)*

1957

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 16 x 12$^{3/4}$ inches | 41 x 32.5 cm

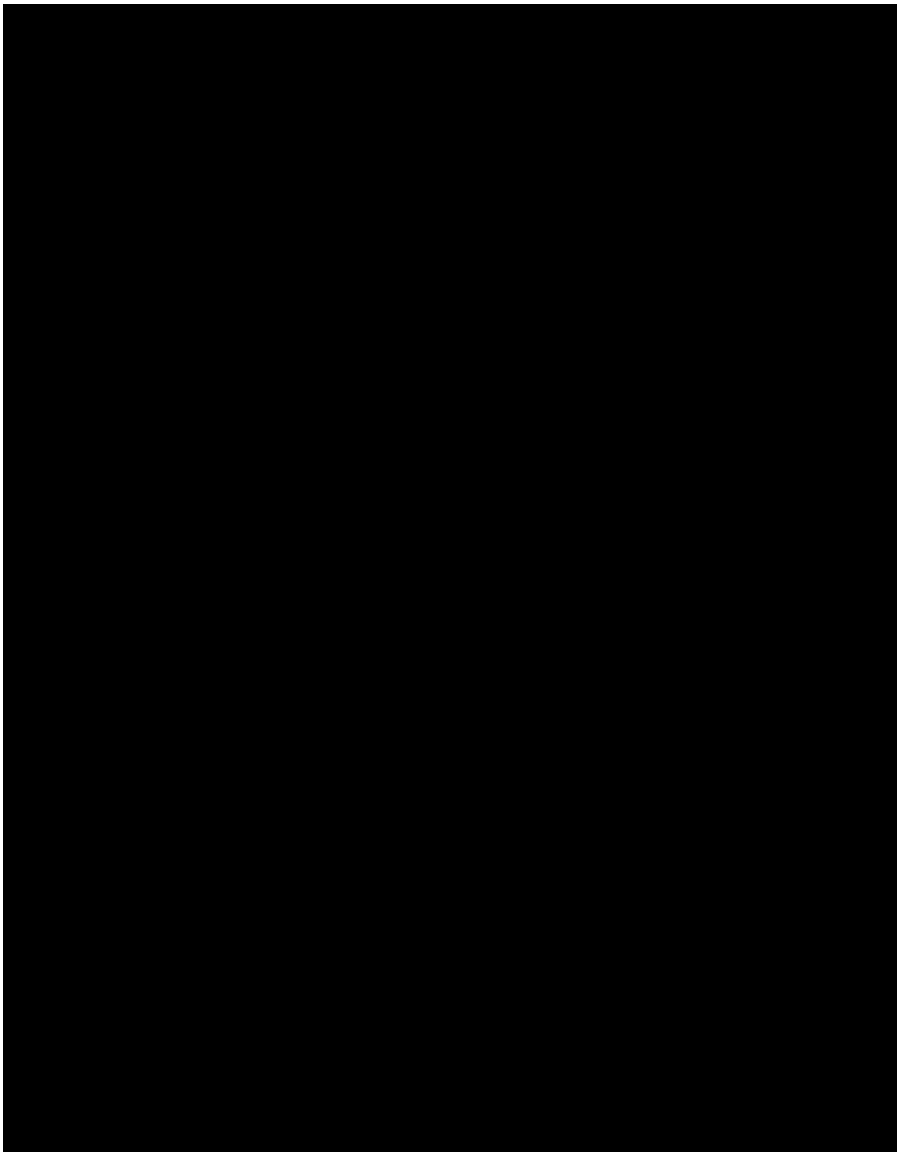


Museu Picasso
Barcelona, Spain

Pablo Picasso | *Head of a Man*

1969

Medium: Oil on paper
Dimensions: $25^{13/16}$ x $19^{7/8}$ inches | 65.5 x 50.5 cm

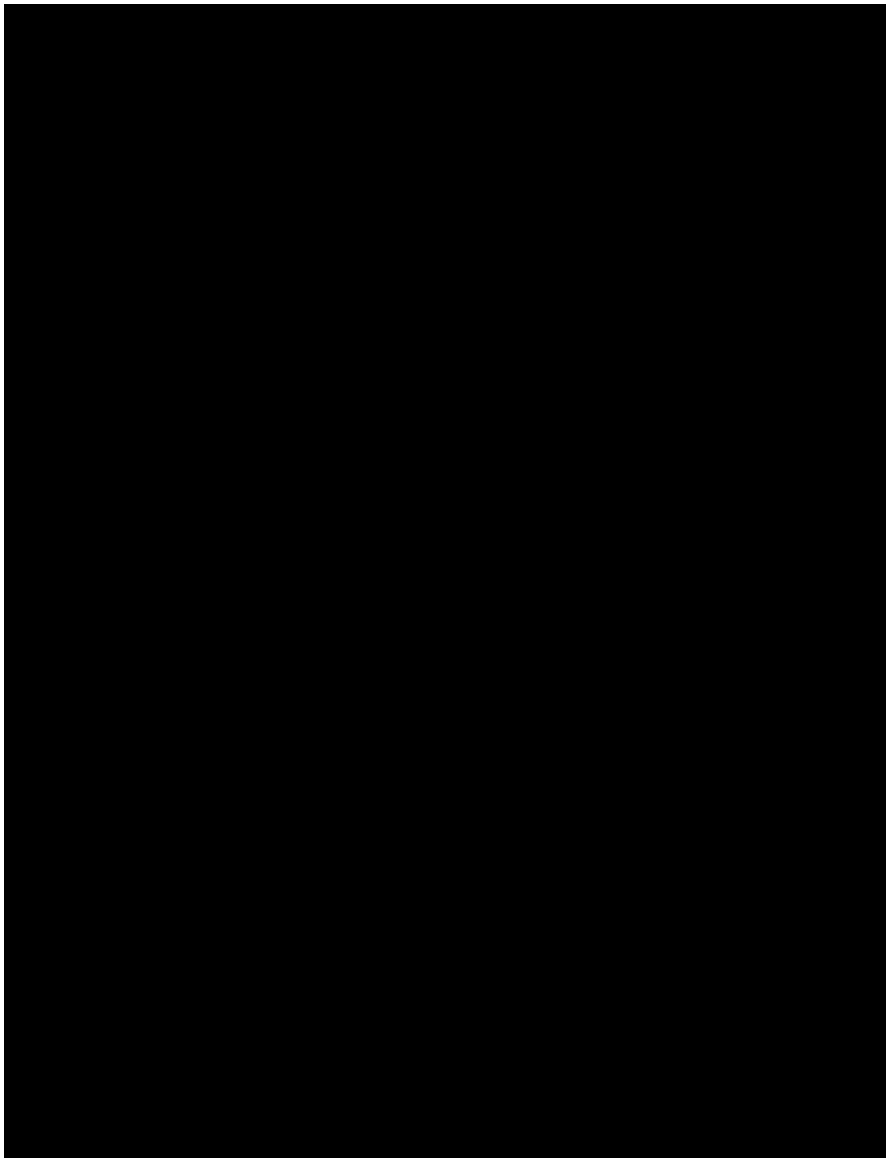


Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Los Angeles, United States

Pablo Picasso | *Head of a Woman in Profile (Jacqueline)*

1970

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: $48^{5/8}$ x 35 inches | 123.51 x 88.9 cm

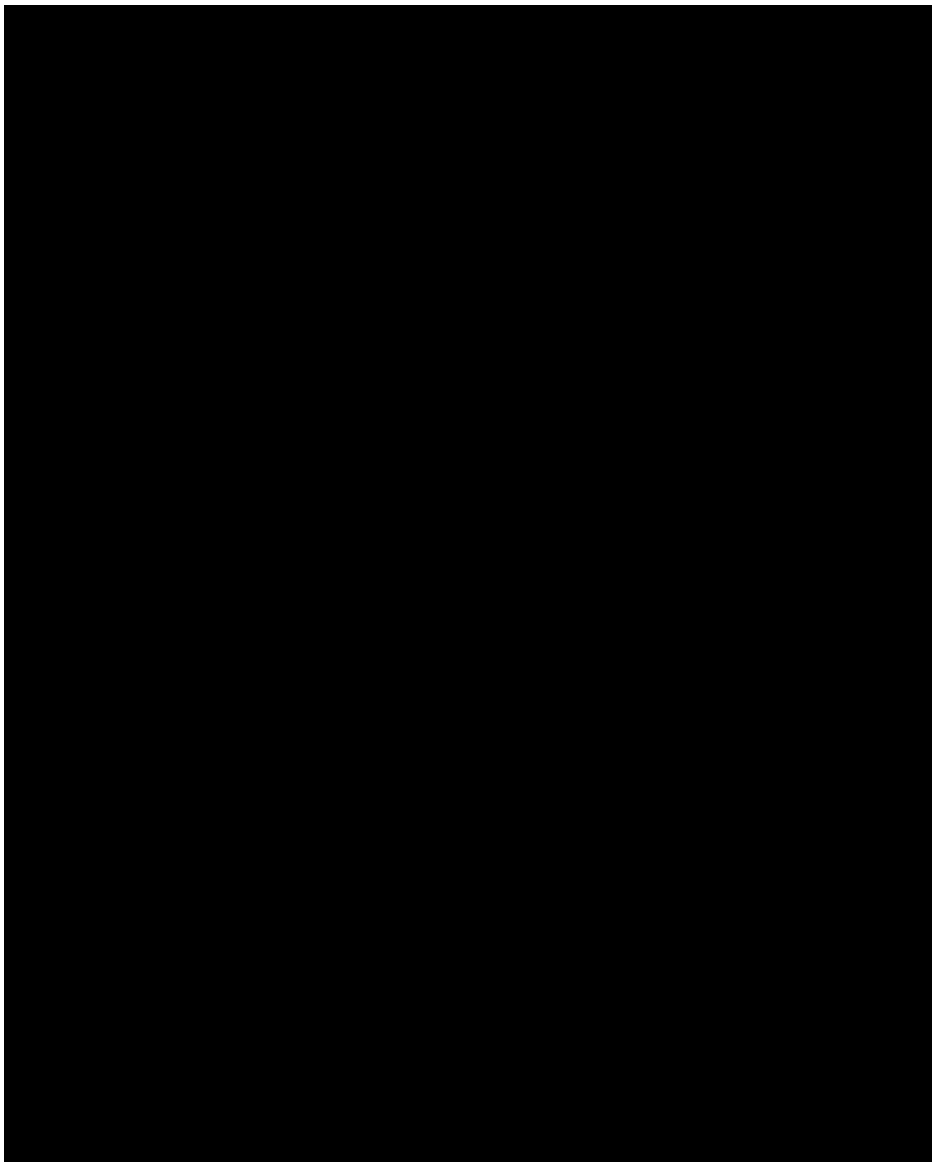


Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Los Angeles, United States

Pablo Picasso | *Bust of a Woman (Dora Maar)*

1941

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 32 x 25$^{1/2}$ inches | 81.28 x 64.77 cm



Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Los Angeles, United States

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