

RIVALS, RADICALS, ROGUES

National Gallery of Australia celebrates one of the most momentous relationships in modern art with *Matisse & Picasso*



Canberra, Australia: Tickets are now on sale for the National Gallery of Australia’s major summer exhibition, *Matisse & Picasso*. Running from 13 December 2019, this exhibition showcases one of the most compelling relationships in modern art history – the artistic rivalry and turbulent friendship of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso.

Featuring over 200 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, illustrated books and costumes from two of the greatest artists of the 20th Century, *Matisse & Picasso* has been made possible thanks to loans from institutions in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, South America and Australia including Musée Picasso, Paris, Tate, London and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, as well as private lenders in Australia, England and France. It also draws on the National Gallery’s own extensive collection of works by Matisse and Picasso.

For the first time, Australian audiences will learn about the powerful connection between Matisse and Picasso; each used the other as an artistic foil and drew inspiration from their rivalry, which spurred their creative brilliance to even greater heights. Over half a century, as these artistic opponents took modernism in a new direction, their intense relationship masked a grudging respect.

Matisse and Picasso felt they were each without peer – except for each other. After the death of his friend in 1954, Picasso acknowledged the influence Matisse had on his own career. “Nobody ever looked at Matisse’s work as thoroughly as I did. And he at mine.”

See the story of Matisse and Picasso's passionate relationship told through their works of art, many in the southern hemisphere for the first time.

Matisse & Picasso is on show at the National Gallery of Australia from 13 December 2019 until 13 April 2020, 10am-5pm daily. Tickets are now available from Ticketek. Adults \$28; Students/Concession \$25; NGA Members \$20; Child (5-16) \$10; Children 4 and under FREE.

<https://nga.gov.au/matissepicasso/>

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KEY DATES

Media Preview | Wednesday 11 December, 11am
Official Opening | Wednesday 11 December, 6pm
Members Day | Thursday 12 December, from 10am
Exhibition Season | 13 December 2019 to 13 April 2020

IMAGES

Available on request

CATALOGUE

Available on request

Matisse & Picasso is generously supported by Strategic Partner ACT Government through Visit Canberra, Major Partners Australian Government International Exhibitions Insurance Program, Seven Network and Qantas. Exhibition Patrons Tony Berg AM and Rhonda White AO. Supporting Partners Capital Hotel Group and Perrier-Jouet. Media Partners The Australian, The Daily Telegraph, ABC Classic, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Canberra Times, Win Television, Region Media and QMS. Creative Partner Sydney Dance Company. Signage Partner Flash Graphics and Beverage Partners Lerida Estate and Capital Brewing Co.

Image left: Pablo Picasso, *L'Arlésienne: Lee Miller*, 1937, oil on canvas, Private international collection, © Succession Picasso/Copyright Agency. Image right: Henri Matisse, *O torse de gesso*, 1919, oil on canvas, Sao Paulo Museum of Art, © Succession H. Matisse/Copyright Agency.