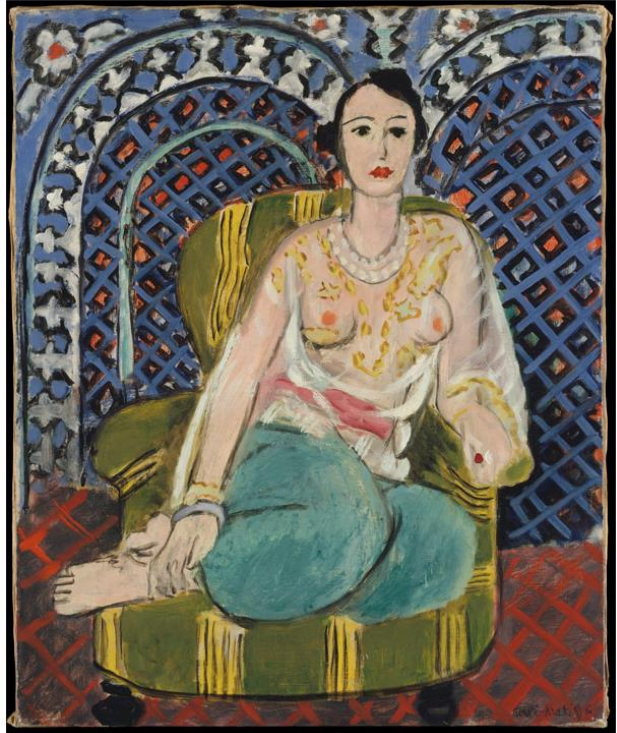


# NGA

National Gallery of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

9 December 2019



## MATISSE AND PICASSO: ARTS GREATEST RIVALS TOGETHER IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

Together they charted a new course for modern European art in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – and for the first time Australian audiences will be able to see the work of two of history’s greatest artistic rivals side by side in the National Gallery of Australia’s major summer exhibition, *Matisse & Picasso*.

Opening on 13 December 2019, the exhibition traces the turbulent relationship of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso from its early days during the belle époque heyday of Paris, through their decades of jockeying for artistic ascendancy. This enduring symbiosis continued after Matisse’s death in 1954, as Picasso’s remembrance for his friend continued to reveal itself in his art.

Curated by the National Gallery of Australia’s Head of International Art, Dr Jane Kinsman, *Matisse & Picasso* draws on more than 200 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, illustrated books and costumes to tell a story of these two masters never-before-told in Australia.

The exhibition brings together numerous works that are rarely seen together – made possible through the generosity of more than 20 private and institutional lenders, including 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.

National Gallery of Australia Director Nick Mitzevich said Matisse and Picasso were both radicals, taking art in a new direction.

“Each used the other as an artistic foil and drew inspiration from their rivalry, which spurred their creative brilliance to even greater heights. This creative friction – over half a century of artistic rivalry – turned the art world as we knew it on its head,” Mr Mitzevich said.

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/>

---

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Marika Lucas-Edwards | Head of Communications  
M 0407 077 102 | E [marika.lucas-edwards@nga.gov.au](mailto:marika.lucas-edwards@nga.gov.au)

Sandra O’Malley | Communications Manager  
M +61 418 897 794 | E [sandra.omalley@nga.gov.au](mailto:sandra.omalley@nga.gov.au)

## 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, *La lecture*, 1932, 130 x 97.5 cm, Musée Picasso, Paris, Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Mathieu Rabeau, © Succession Picasso/Copyright Agency. Image right: Henri Matisse, *Seated odalisque*, 1926, oil on canvas, 73 x 60 cm, Gift of Adele R. Levy Fund Inc., 1962, Metropolitan Museum, New York, © Succession H. Matisse/Copyright Agency.