



**THE MUSEU PICASSO OF BARCELONA PRESENTS THE DONATION
OF THE ARCHIVE OF BRIGITTE BAER, WORLD AUTHORITY ON
PICASSO'S PRINTMAKING AND AUTHOR OF THE CATALOGUE
RAISONNÉ**

Galerie Kornfeld, Bern, editor of the catalogue raisonné, has also donated a body of material related to its activity in publishing the catalogue, with the objective of keeping the whole of the archive intact.

With this donation and the documents received in donation from Editorial Gustavo Gili in 2014, the museum's Research Centre becomes a principal source for those researching Picasso's printmaking.

Barcelona, November 19, 2015. The documentary archive of the French art historian Brigitte Baer, author of the catalogue raisonné of Picasso's prints, has been donated to the Museu Picasso by her nephew, David Leclerc. The personal archive of Brigitte Baer brings together a wide variety of documentary resources Baer gathered from 1975 until her death in 2005. The material is the result of Baer's total dedication to the study of Pablo Picasso's printmaking. Of particular interest is the documentation produced and collected as a consequence of her research for the preparation of the catalogue raisonné of Picasso's work as a printmaker, *Picasso peintre-graveur: Catalogue raisonné de l'œuvre gravé et des monotypes, 1899-1972*, comprised of six volumes and an addendum. The catalogue analyzes 2,024 Picasso prints.

The donation of this magnificent body of documentary material has been made possible thanks to the contribution of Paco Rebés, director of the renowned gallery A34, specialized in Picasso and his engravings. The role of Mr. Rebés has been decisive in making it possible for this archive to be preserved and made known through the Museu Picasso; a museum Brigitte Baer had ties to, along with the city of Barcelona.

Essential to the task of the Museu Picasso is the acquisition of heritage archives able to enrich the museum's holdings and contribute material for research and greater knowledge of Picasso's work. With this goal in mind, the archive now being added is considered to be particularly important for the understanding and advancement of research into Pablo Picasso's printmaking. According to Baer, Picasso was the most important engraver of the 20th century. Furthermore, the Museu Picasso is known for its collection of a large part of the artist's prints (1,671 in total). These holdings, together with others now in the museum, such as the material received from Editorial Gustavo Gili, will make it possible to gain more detailed knowledge of the artist's creative and production processes, situating the Museum Picasso amongst the leading institutions for the study of Picasso's printmaking.



The archive is made up of the following sets of documentation:

- A copy of the work of each volume of the catalogue raisonné written by Brigitte Baer, with numerous annotations and commentaries by the author.
- Copies of other catalogue raisonnés of the prints of Picasso, written respectively by Fernand Mourlot, Georges Bloch and Bernhard Geiser, also featuring important annotations and commentaries by Brigitte Baer.
- A copy each of another five publications by various authors related to Picasso's work, with valuable annotations by Baer.
- 36 original manuscripts and typescripts of articles and other texts written by Brigitte Baer, published around the world in catalogues and other kinds of publications.
- A linear metre of textual documentation related to Baer's research. This includes correspondence on each of the works studied, including detailed information as well as annotations and notes on Picasso's prints for the preparation of the catalogue raisonné. These bodies of material are of utmost documentary value. The documentation also includes writings and articles of other authors Baer supervised or used in her research, to highlight the most important material found in the section.
- Some 12,000 photographs, both negatives and positives, reproducing the prints of Picasso, as used by Brigitte Baer for her study of Picasso's work, with annotations.
- From Galerie Kornfeld, a variety of material owned by the gallery itself, related to its activity as the publisher of the catalogue raisonnés of Picasso's prints. As a complement to this donation, Kornfeld has also donated the photolithographs in their possession used for the eventual printing of the catalogue raisonné.

Baer dedicated an important part of her life to the study of Picasso's printmaking, working directly with original material, including preparatory plates and drawings along with the final engravings. This allowed her to gain greater understanding of the artist's work, and in the meantime come to understand and acquire a passionate appreciation for it. The documentary archive of Brigitte Baer now given by the museum perfectly reflects the way she worked, with dedication, care and intelligence, making it a fundamental source for research. Brigitte Baer once said that "for Picasso the print was a sort of diary of emotions." For the Museu Picasso it is an honour and a privilege to include the personal archive of Brigitte Baer in its holdings. The process of classifying and cataloguing the entire body of material will begin immediately.

About Brigitte Baer

Brigitte Leclerc, known as Brigitte Baer, was born on June 9, 1931 in Paris. Daughter of the family of Paris publishers Armand Colin, renowned for their history books and school textbooks, Baer began to work for the publishing house at the age of 18, before later joining the magazine *Jour de France*, where she was director of the beauty section.



In 1975, her friend Maurice Rheims, a curator and auction house assessor who was also responsible for the Picasso estate, proposed that she come work for him. Baer would spend five years amongst the bank vaults of the BNP branch on the Boulevard des Italiens, in Paris, and at Notre Dame de Vie, Mougins, working on the inventory of the work. It was then when she became familiar with the work of Picasso and discovered his passion for printmaking.

Once the estate was executed, Claude Picasso presented Brigitte Baer to Eberhard Kornfeld. Galerie Kornfeld in Bern had published *Picasso, peintre-graveur*, by Bernhard Geiser, the first catalogue raisonné of Picasso's prints. The book was unfinished due to the death of the author. Kornfeld commissioned Brigitte Baer with the task of finishing the catalogue raisonné, with the first volume published in 1986. On the basis of the information found in the inventory of the estate and Picasso's heirs, it was then decided to do a new edition of the entire catalogue raisonné in seven volumes. Brigitte Baer worked on this project for 10 years.

Once she had been recognized as a world expert in Picasso's printmaking, she was commissioned to organize various exhibitions of his work in Dallas, Rome, Paris, New York and Barcelona, and would publish widely on the subject. Baer passed away on November 15, 2005 in Paris, at the age of 74.

On the Museu Picasso

The Museu Picasso is to promote and disseminate the knowledge and the research into the oeuvre of Pablo Picasso, both locally and globally. Ours is one of the most important museums exclusively dedicated to the figure of the artist and the first to be founded, over fifty years ago. The works in its permanent collection are essential for exploring the artist's initial years of training and his dedication to engraving, as exemplified by the complete series of *Las Meninas*. Located in an exceptional architectural setting, a group of five civilian Gothic buildings, the museum was conceived as a space for promoting art and knowledge in the service of the artist, the city and its visitors. Thanks to its origin and its collection, the museum is the living proof of the connection between Pablo Picasso and Barcelona.

Museu Picasso
Department of Press and Communication
Montcada, 15–23
08003 Barcelona
Tel. 932 563 026

museupicasso_prensa@bcn.cat
<http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/en/>

