



**THE MUSEU PICASSO PRESENTS *PICASSO/DALÍ, DALÍ/PICASSO*,
THE FIRST EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH ARTISTS**

Organised by the Museu Picasso with The Dalí Museum in Saint Petersburg, Florida, in collaboration with the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres, this show examines the relationship between Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí—one of the most decisive crossroads in the history of 20th-century art

Dalí felt admiration for Picasso dating back to before they had even met, when the young Dalí was making his first avant-garde forays in the early 1920's

The show includes works rarely seen in Europe, including Salvador Dalí's *Portrait of My Sister* and *Profanation of the Host*, and 29 pieces by the two artists that will only be seen in Barcelona

Barcelona, 19 March 2015. The Museu Picasso and The Dalí Museum in Saint Petersburg, Florida, have worked with the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres and more than 25 art museums and private collectors worldwide to put on the first exhibition to analyse the relationship between Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí. The show sheds light on their highly productive relationship and reveals its high points and contradictions. "We didn't set out to show that these two artists are in some way similar, but to help visitors get a better understanding of them," says the show's co-curator, William Jeffett, from The Dalí Museum. The idea is to let visitors see work by both artists in a fresh light by showing where their paths crossed. The exhibition reveals that after Dalí visited Picasso at his studio in Paris, his work underwent a tremendous experimental shift: he quickly went from merely "analysing" Picasso's work to fashioning his own, fully Surrealist artistic language.

***Picasso/Dalí, Dalí/Picasso* presents 78 works encompassing paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures and prints, as well as a selection of 33 documents** including letters and postcards Gala and Dalí sent to Picasso (the only part of the exhibition to have been previously published in this context, in Paris in 2005). All the other pieces were chosen following a recent study carried out by Juan José Lahuerta (co-curator until 2013) and William Jeffett. The show offers visitors a unique opportunity to see Salvador Dalí's *Profanation of the Host*, on loan from The Dalí Museum exclusively for this exhibition and probably on display in Europe for the first time since the 1930s as well the superb *Female Nude* and *Bathers*, presented together in Europe for the first time since they were originally exhibited in Zürich during the early days of Dalí's career. There are also 29 pieces (a third of the whole show) that will only be seen in Barcelona.

Major works by Picasso include *Still Life with Antique Bust* (Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris), *Group of Female Nudes* (Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart), *Still Life in Front of a Window, Saint-Raphaël* (Museum Berggruen, Berlin), *Seated Woman* (Art Gallery of Ontario), *Glass of Absinthe* (private collection) and *Woman in a Red Armchair* (The Menil Collection, Houston), as well as ***Metamorphosis* and *Head*, both owned by Dalí and Gala and donated by them to the Museu Picasso when it opened, in 1963.** Key pieces by Salvador Dalí include *Portrait of Maria Carbona* (The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal), *Venus and Cupids* (Colero Collection), *Table in Front of the Sea. Homage to Erik Satie* (Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí), and—from The Dalí Museum—*Apparatus and Hand*, *The First Days of Spring* and *Aphrodisiac Dinner Jacket*. In their later years, both artists produced pieces exploring Velázquez's paintings, such as *Las Meninas* and its jesters. **The show features works that offer a keen insight into the two artists' relationship over the years.**



Press Release

The exhibition focuses on the times when Picasso and Dalí had contact and offers a series of perspectives for analysing previously unexplored aspects of their relationship. They both spent their formative years in Catalonia, above all in Barcelona—a key cultural point of reference whilst they were honing their artistic identities and a place where they were exposed to the latest cultural developments. At this time, Dalí's perception of Picasso—before they met in Paris—came from common acquaintances and Picasso's presence in Barcelona in the form of exhibitions and publications on his work. Dalí had already struck up a dialogue with Picasso's work before 1926, but his meeting with Picasso and the visit to his studio spurred him on to develop his own, mature artistic language. Picasso's "poetic Cubism" from this period forged a path for Dalí and offered him a model to emulate.

André Breton's foundation of the Surrealist Movement in 1924 had a major impact on both artists. Picasso never joined the Surrealist group, although he showed a keen interest in their ideas. The Surrealists, however, proclaimed Picasso's work to be a key source of inspiration. Once Dalí had moved to Paris at the end of the decade, he began to assert his new Surrealist style in major works. These were the years when the two artists converge, when the Surrealist circles became the complex stage for their relationship. This period was brought to a dramatic close by the Spanish Civil War, which led them to create powerful and often allegorical pieces: Dalí's *Premonition of Civil War* and Picasso's *Guernica*, represented in the show by the artists' related drawings. The final section of the exhibition looks at their dialogue with Velázquez's paintings—especially *Las Meninas*—in the late 1950s, as Picasso and Dalí became aware of their place in history.

Alongside the works on display are a number of documents showing how the relationship between Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí evolved over the years, including reviews of pieces by Picasso, which introduced Dalí to his work, as well as publications featuring work by both artists. In the 1930s, both artists were included in the major shows on the Surrealist group. ***Picasso/Dalí, Dalí/Picasso* is a unique opportunity not only to delve into the life and work of two visionary artists who had a very productive relationship but also to explore different aspects of 20th-century art and history.**

In conjunction with the exhibition there will be a series of activities, beginning on the opening night, March 20, with a roundtable entitled *Picasso/Dalí, Dalí/Picasso: Counterpoint*, which will explore the artists' artistic counterpoints. Panellists will include Montse Aguer (director of the Centre d'Estudis Dalinians of Fundació Gala-Salvador-Dalí), Lucía García de Carpi (historian and art critic), Jèssica Jaques (lecturer in aesthetics and art theory at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and Joan M. Minguet (lecturer in contemporary art and film history at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), and it will be moderated by William Jeffett (co-curator of the show and curator of special exhibitions at The Dalí Museum). The programme of activities to tie in with the show also includes **guided tours** on Saturday afternoons; a **Reading Club session** led by writer Borja Bagunyà, with Vicent Santamaria de Mingo, publisher of the Catalan translation of Dalí's first published book, on April 9 at 7 pm; and the ***Exquisite Portrait* family workshop**, on April 11, 18 and 25 and May 9 and 16 at 5 pm.

The exhibition will be on at the Museu Picasso from March 20 to June 28, 2015, as well as on Facebook and Twitter ([#PicassoDalí](#)).



The Museu Picasso strongly recommends buying tickets online to avoid queuing:

Catalan:

http://212.15.255.23:8080/muslink/venda/activitats.jsp?lang=1&nom_cache=PICASSO&property=PICASSO

Spanish:

http://212.15.255.23:8080/muslink/venda/activitats.jsp?lang=2&nom_cache=PICASSO&property=PICASSO

English:

http://212.15.255.23:8080/muslink/venda/activitats.jsp?lang=3&nom_cache=PICASSO&property=PICASSO

About the Museu Picasso:

The Museu Picasso principal objective is to promote a better understanding of Picasso and his work. It is one of the leading museums devoted exclusively to Pablo Picasso and was the first one in the world to open, over 50 years ago. Its collection includes key pieces from his formative years and unrivalled examples of his work as a printmaker—it is the only art centre to possess an entire series by Picasso: *Las Meninas*. Housed in a striking architectural setting of five buildings in Catalan Gothic style, its collection is a living testament to the artist's ties with Barcelona. The Museu Picasso is a space for art and knowledge at the service of Picasso, the city of Barcelona and all its visitors. (www.museupicasso.bcn.cat).

About The Dalí Museum in Saint Petersburg, Florida: <http://thedali.org/>

About the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres: <http://www.salvador-dali.org/index/>

Museu Picasso

Press and Communication Office

Tel.: (+34) 93 256 30 21/26

museupicasso_prensa@bcn.cat