

# PICASSO AND WAR

5 APRIL TO 28 JULY 2019

**Picasso's entire life (1881–1973) was marked by major conflicts, from the Cuban War of Independence to the Vietnam War, which came to an end two years after his death. The exhibition, organised by the Musée de l'Armée and the Musée National Picasso-Paris, takes a brand-new look at the various ways that warfare informed and impacted Picasso's creative output throughout his career.**

The life of the Spanish artist, a French resident from 1901 until his death in 1973, was punctuated by armed conflicts, although paradoxically he did not take an active part in any war himself, and never served as a soldier. The artist was excused from compulsory military service and experienced the wars that ravaged the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a civilian. He was an inspiring figure, feted after Liberation as a resistance artist and activist, and his political statements conferred on him a unique role in history as it unfolded.

Picasso always claimed that his work was his 'journal', a personal and secret journal that recounted his private life. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century unfolded, with its two World Wars and rising totalitarianism, he recounted the conflicts and tragedy of contemporary life through this journal.



© Graphica (Julie Bayard & Igor Devernay) Succession Picasso 2019

Picasso's work has always featured warlike motifs, going right back to his childhood. In 1912, the artist began to include newspaper cuttings about the Balkan conflict in some of his collages. Then the war arrived in France, where Picasso lived, sending his closest friends to the frontline.

When the Spanish Civil War broke out, Picasso was faced with new responsibilities and this was a crucial moment for the artist. Appointed as director of the Prado Museum in Madrid, he went on to create his monumental painting, *Guernica*, in response to the bombing of the town of the same name.

The outbreak of the Second World War followed by the Occupation put the artist in an extremely precarious position. During this period, marked by major upheavals, modern art, particularly Picasso's art, was labelled as 'degenerate' in a Nazi-dominated Europe while meeting with growing success in the USA. The artist was holed up in a form of internal exile at his studio on Rue des Grands-Augustins in Paris. The studio became the epicentre of a network of ties with French as well as German painters and intellectuals.

Once France was liberated, the artist committed himself and his art to political causes. The war and its motifs, along with peace and its symbols, featured strongly in the post-war work produced by the artist, who had become a popular figure.



Pablo Picasso (1881–1973), *Massacre in Korea*, Vallauris, 18 January 1951 © Musée National Picasso-Paris, RMN-Grand Palais / Mathieu Rabeau / Picasso estate 2019

The exhibition will mix a chronological and chrono-thematic approach. Picasso's works and personal archives, in all their diversity, will be shown alongside a selection of explanatory items (press articles, photographs and objects) evoking the reality and spread of the conflicts that influenced his work. The exhibition will explore the various ways that warfare informed and impacted Picasso's creative output throughout his career. The artist's most widely known work, *Guernica*, opens the exhibition visit, represented by a photograph Dora Maar took in the Grands-Augustins studio. The painting was a tipping point in the artist's career, marking his first public political statement. French and foreign loans enhance the exhibition's approach and bring a fresh perspective on the subject.

#### KEY EXHIBITION FIGURES

335 objects and documents

140 works by Picasso

15 portraits of personalities

7 multimedia posts

7 panels for young visitors

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Picasso as playwright

The six-act play Pablo Picasso wrote in Paris in 1941, *Desire Caught by the Tail*, uses a surrealist style bordering on the absurd, to evoke the anguish and anxieties of a group of eccentric characters dining together. Hunger, cold and love are the play's three main themes, mirroring the hardships people suffered under the Occupation. The text's first reading was given on 19 March 1944 at the Leiris' apartment by Louise and Michel Leiris, Zanie Aubier, Valentine Hugo, Dora Maar, Raymond Queneau, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, and directed by Albert Camus. The reading was a major artistic event in occupied Paris.



Brassaï, Manuel Ortiz de Zárate, Françoise Gilot, Apelles Fenosa, Jean Marais, Pierre Reverdy, Picasso, Jean Cocteau and Brassaï. In the Grands-Augustins studio, Paris, 27 April 1944 © Brassaï estate – Paris, Musée National Picasso-Paris / Franck Raux

## Partners

The exhibition is organised by the Musée de l'Armée and Musée National Picasso-Paris under the patronage of the Spanish ambassador to France.



The exhibition also benefits from the support of CIC, a key partner to the Musée de l'Armée, and the special participation of the Musée de la Résistance Nationale in Champigny.



## Curators

**Isabelle Limousin**, heritage curator, head of the expert and inventory department, Musée de l'Armée

**Vincent Giraudier**, head of the Historial Charles de Gaulle, Musée de l'Armée

**Laëtitia Desserrières**, assistant curator in charge of the drawing collections at the iconography department, Musée de l'Armée

**Clotilde Forest**, documentalist at the expert and inventory department, Musée de l'Armée

**Émilie Bouvard**, heritage curator, in charge of paintings (1938–1973), research and contemporary art, Musée National Picasso-Paris

## Publication

Catalogue co-published with Éditions Gallimard.

## Layout Design

Vincen Cornu Architecture: Vincen Cornu and Georges Miron.

## Graphic Design

Graphica: Julie Bayard and Igor Devernay.

## GUIDED TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

The Musée de l'Armée's digital guide is a new tool for exploring the *Picasso and War* exhibition in French, English and Spanish.

### Young visitors

#### ▪ **Just Like Picasso workshop**

After exploring the exhibition with a specialist guide, families can try out a selection of the artist's techniques for themselves with a series of experiments that tie into the works and objects they encountered during the visit.

The workshop lasts two hours – Bookings: [jeunes@musee-armee.fr](mailto:jeunes@musee-armee.fr)

#### ▪ **Fun exhibition visit**

Embark on a fun exhibition visit to get a new perspective on Picasso's work in the light of the conflicts that marked the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Various challenges await you during the visit.

The visit lasts from 1.30 to 2 hours – Bookings: [jeunes@musee-armee.fr](mailto:jeunes@musee-armee.fr)

#### ▪ **Family visit**

Special panels combined with a games booklet (in French, English and Spanish) for young visitors provide an informative and fun way of finding out all about the exhibition's objects, artworks and archives. The youngest visitors are invited to meet the challenge of using a visual detail to find a specific object or artwork, with a little gift as a prize!

### Adults

#### ▪ **Guided exhibition tour**

Escorted by a trained guide, set out on a voyage in Picasso's footsteps and explore the various ways that warfare informed and impacted his work throughout his life. The visit will show you the diverse array of art he produced as a result of his relationship with war and how the exhibition adds a fresh perspective to the subject.

The tour lasts 1.30 hours – Bookings: [contact@cultural.fr](mailto:contact@cultural.fr) or +33 (0)825 05 44 05

#### ▪ **Through the Curators' Eyes guided tour**

The exhibition's curators invite you on a special tour centring on one of the works on display.

The tour lasts 1.30 hours – Bookings: [visites@musee-armee.fr](mailto:visites@musee-armee.fr)

## ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION

#### ▪ **Cycle of concerts: *The Spanish Hour***

4 April – 17 June 2019

Conjuring up Picasso's universe and artistic sensibilities, this cycle of 11 concerts accompanies the exhibition, inviting you to join the painter's close circle of musician and poet friends. The concerts reveal a sophisticated and subtle interplay of affinities and ties between the arts, fruit of the imagination of composers including Satie, Stravinsky, Falla, Granados, Albéniz and Poulenc, and of close-knit collaboration with poets such as Cocteau, Jacob, Éluard and Apollinaire.

The cycle of concerts is organised under the patronage of, and supported by, the Spanish Embassy in France.

Information and bookings: [saisonmusicale.musee-armee.fr](http://saisonmusicale.musee-armee.fr) – +33 (0)1 44 42 54 66

#### ▪ **Cycle of conferences: *20th-Century Wars and Artists***

9 – 18 April 2019

The Musée de l'Armée is organising a cycle of five conferences that aim to provide food for thought on the complex relationship between conflicts and artistic creation.

Austerlitz Auditorium, 1.45 to 3 pm

Booking required, admission free subject to seat availability: [histoire@musee-armee.fr](mailto:histoire@musee-armee.fr)

#### ▪ **Film cycle: *War Depicted on Screen***

3 to 7 June 2019

This film cycle focuses on the way in which different 20<sup>th</sup>-century armed conflicts, such as the Spanish Civil War and Second World War, which the Spanish artist lived through, have been portrayed on the big screen by various filmmakers.

Admission free subject to seat availability – Bookings online at [musee-armee.fr](http://musee-armee.fr)

### **Practical Information**

Full programme on [musee-armee.fr](http://musee-armee.fr)

Opening hours: the exhibition is open every day except 1 May 2019; 10.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, Tuesday evenings until 9.00 pm, 10.00 am to 7 pm at the weekend

Prices (exhibition and permanent collections): €12, reduced price €10, free for children under 18

Guided tours: adults ([contact@cultural.fr](mailto:contact@cultural.fr) – +33 (0)825 05 44 05); families, school groups and students ([jeunes@musee-armee.fr](mailto:jeunes@musee-armee.fr))

Musée de l'Armée

Hôtel National des Invalides, 129 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris

[musee-armee.fr](http://musee-armee.fr)

#ExpoPicassoGuerre



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The Musée de l'Armée houses one of the world's most extensive military history collections, with close to 500,000 pieces hailing from the Bronze Age to the present. Benefiting from its superb location at the heart of one of the most illustrious Parisian monuments and home to the tomb of Napoleon I, the Hôtel National des Invalides, the museum offers an historical, chronological and theme-based experience, along with a wide-reaching cultural programme comprising exhibitions, conferences, symposiums, film screenings, concerts and special events. It attracts massive visitor numbers, with 1.2 million visitors in 2018, putting it in the top 10 of France's most visited museums.