



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PABLO PICASSO: ETCHINGS 1966-1971 **Fine Arts Center brings 20th century master to Colorado Springs**

COLORADO SPRINGS (July 7, 2008) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is pleased to present *Pablo Picasso: Etchings 1966-1971* from July 19 through Sept. 14. This important exhibition, displayed in the second-floor North Events and Seagraves Galleries, features 40 etchings by 20th century master.

A special *Opening Celebration* for the exhibition will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres and tours, a cash bar, music, and FAC curators. Join us on Friday, July 18, 5-8 p.m. All FAC Members (\$7.50) and non-members (\$12) are welcome.

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) completed these early proofs between 1966 and 1971, long before their respective editions were printed. These rare prints, also known as “before steel facing” proofs are vividly richer than the regular editions, and were kept by Picasso for his personal collection. The artist portrays an extensive cast of characters both from his personal life as well as from the world of art.

“The 40 works in this exhibition are evidence that Picasso cannot be acclaimed highly enough, especially in his graphic work,” said the Fine Arts Center’s Tariana Navas-Nieves, exhibit curator.

“His technical refinement and thematic exploration result in insightful and evocative self-portraits and portrayals of his artistic predecessors, and central characters of the theater his life was; courtesans, circus performers, literary figures, and of course, the artist’s model.

“These works are from Picasso’s late graphic series, and they are outstanding. They do not merely show Picasso’s technical genius, but tell stories of the artist’s life. When the series were created Picasso was in his eighties; an old man contemplating his life; his work mirroring his desires, fears and recollections. Only Rembrandt can compete with Picasso’s artistic production.”

Picasso extended and developed the extraordinary print tradition of artists like the 17th century Dutch virtuoso Rembrandt, and 18th-19th century Spanish master Francisco de Goya. Etching was the favorite printmaking method of these Old Masters, and was especially favored by Picasso. The process of printmaking

requires a balance of mastery and inventiveness, which Picasso ingeniously employed. He approached traditional techniques in imaginative ways and was able to coax new and creative methods to further his artistic intent in the area of creating original graphics. Picasso's forty etchings demonstrate his intuitive and characteristic ability to recognize and exploit the possibilities inherent in any medium in which he chose to work.

It is a testament to Picasso's love of printmaking that he created such an outstanding selection of etchings in his final years. The breadth and depth of Picasso's expression in these works is representative of his importance as not only the preeminent 20th century artist, but also as the artist who more than any other brought together a plethora of world aesthetic traditions combining them into a new modernity.

The exhibition was organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, Calif. The works come from the collection of Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA.

Pablo Picasso: Etchings 1966-1971 is sponsored by the El Pomar Foundation, Timothy C. Hoiles, and the Wine Festival of Colorado Springs

Photo Requests: Contact Melissa Thompson at mthompson@csfineartscenter.org or by calling 719.477.4350.

Admission, Hours

The Fine Arts Center is located on the NW corner of Dale and Cascade. The FAC is open Tuesday-Friday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Saturday. Admission for *Pablo Picasso: Etchings 1966-1971* is \$5.00 for FAC Members and \$10.00 for non-members. For more information, visit csfineartscenter.org.