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# Life!

## PICASSO UP CLOSE



Le Taureau, 5e etat (Bull, 5th State), a lithograph which Picasso created in 1945.

About 50 rare Picasso lithographs, linocuts and their plates will be on show for the first time in Asia at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute in June. **DEEPIKA SHETTY** reports. **E6&7**



Wedding photographer Yee Dingyang in his living room.

### Wow walls

Home owners are getting creative with feature walls. **NATASHA ANN ZACHARIAH** finds out how.

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Spanish artist Pablo Picasso enjoyed the challenge of printmaking as much as he enjoyed painting.  
PHOTOS: D.R.

See facing page for more artworks

PHOTO: SUCCESSION PICASSO 2013

**LE TAUREAU, SE ETAT (BULL, 5TH STATE)**  
Dec 24, 1945  
Lithograph, Private Collection  
©Succession Picasso 2013

Created in the lithographic workshop of Fernand Mourlot, founder of publisher Editions Mourlot in Paris, this series comprises 11 successive reworkings of the lithographic stone.

Using the power of lines, it involves paring down a realistic image of a bull to

its mere essence. It shows Picasso progressing from a realistic academic depiction of a bull to one that is completely abstracted into schematic lines.

He used the bull as a metaphor throughout his work but he refused to pin down any meaning of it. It has been interpreted in various ways depending on its context: as a symbol of the Spanish people, comment on fascism and brutality, symbol of power and virility, or reflection of the artist's own self-image.

# PICASSO THE PRINTMAKER

An exhibition of his rare prints shows how the painter mastered the art



**Deepika Shetty**  
Arts Correspondent

**P**icasso the printmaker? A new exhibition throws the spotlight on that less well-known side of one of the greatest and most prolific modern painters.

About 50 rare lithographs, linocuts and corresponding plates by the late Spanish master will be on show for the first time in Asia at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute next month.

The show explores Pablo Picasso's creative process through printmaking and how various printmaking techniques led to new directions in his art. It also presents various phases of his imagery

and its metamorphosis.

Drawn from the archives of his son Claude, this show will also feature an oil painting, the 1945 classic *Tete a la coiffe*, valued at \$13 million (see side story). The works are valued at \$40 million and none is for sale.

The institute's gallery, now closed for renovations, re-opens on June 26 with *The Mystery Of Picasso's Creative Process - The Art Of Printmaking: A Selection Of Masterpieces*, presented by SingTel.

Institute director Emi Eu says bringing in these works is part of its "commitment to bring world-class art to Singapore".

Born in Malaga, Spain, Picasso (1881-1973) was a child prodigy and, from age 14, an advanced student at the Barcelona Academy of Fine Arts. He was unafraid to experiment, something which is being emphasised in the exhibition.

In an e-mail response, Ms Tatyana Franck, 28, director of Claude Picasso's Switzerland-based archives, says: "His insatiable curiosity, combined with his constant need to create, brought him to use different mediums. Printmaking

became the source for his creativity.

"Printmaking was challenging for Picasso. It was physical compared to painting and it allowed for adjustments during the artistic process which he could not do when working in other mediums."

Ms Franck says the carefully selected works in the exhibition demonstrate how he used various printmaking techniques to add to his oeuvre. Apart from the finished prints, visitors will also get to

## View it

**SINGTEL PRESENTS THE MYSTERY OF PICASSO'S CREATIVE PROCESS - THE ART OF PRINTMAKING: A SELECTION OF MASTERPIECES**

Where: Singapore Tyler Print Institute Gallery, 41 Robertson Quay  
When: June 26 to Aug 24, 10am to 6pm (Tuesdays to Saturdays). Viewing on Mondays by appointment only  
Admission: Free  
Info: Call 6336-3663 or go to [www.stpi.com.sg](http://www.stpi.com.sg)

see linocuts and woodcuts.

Recognised as one of the pioneers of Cubism - which offers a vision of multiple perspectives and fractured, interlocking planes on canvases - his influence extends beyond his famous paintings.

As a printmaker, he is regarded as the most significant since Rembrandt, the 18th-century Dutch painter also better known for his paintings. Art historians say Picasso's free experimentation with printmaking in the 1940s made people rethink prints as an art form. He made about 2,400 prints.

Divided into three main sections, the exhibition explores three themes, starting with his deconstruction of a bull, using the dramatic power of lines.

The underlying theme of metamorphosis continues with his series on female forms. These reveal his varying interpretations of his many muses as they become the focus of his art and a driving force behind his creativity.

The final section focuses on the theme of invention - looking at lines and forms as represented by the lone painting and

the print accompanying it. The pair of works shows him trying to do away with the complexities of art that were established before him. He tried creating new forms of expression by emphasising the sheer power of form and line. The result was several striking and angular works such as the 1947 painting *Tete a la coiffe*.

Picasso is still a much sought-after blue-chip artist today. In the list of most expensive paintings in the world, his works occupy three of the top 10 places. *Le Reve (The Dream)* (1962) was recently sold privately for US\$155 million (S\$191 million) to American hedge fund manager Steve Cohen, making it the most expensive Picasso work to date.

Recent museum retrospectives at the Guggenheim in New York and Kunstmuseum Basel show that his work continues to inspire people today.

Ms Franck says his boldness to innovate shows the transforming power of the human imagination, changing the way an artist views the world and how the world views the artist. She adds: "With a focus on his prints, we hope to look at the mystery of Picasso's creative process."

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**TETE A LA COIFFE (left)**

April 17, 1947  
Oil on canvas, Private Collection  
© Succession Picasso 2013

French artist and writer Francoise Gilot, who Picasso met in May 1943, is portrayed in this abstract black and white painting, widely considered a masterpiece. They had two children, Claude, who loaned the works for this exhibition, and Paloma, a well-known fashion and jewellery designer.

Three days after the canvas was completed, Picasso recreated the exact image on lithographic stone, showing how he could easily switch from one medium to another. It is extremely rare for an exhibition to include both works in one show. Also in the exhibition will be the original zinc plate used to make the print version of Tete a la coiffe.

**LES DEUX FEMMES NUES, 183 ETAT (TWO FEMALE NUDES, 18TH STATE, above), 1946**

Lithography, Private Collection  
© Succession Picasso 2013

Some of the earliest lithographs Picasso made at Mourlot's printing studio were portraits of Gilot.

She is the main "femme" in this print, which is part of a series of works. This moves from a realistic live study of human figures to an increasing level of abstraction bordering on Cubism.

The theme of the sleeping woman goes back to his Blue period, between 1900 and 1904, when he painted monochromatic paintings in shades of blue and blue-green.

This composition took him almost three months to complete.

PHOTOS: SUCCESSION PICASSO 2013, STPI

**PORTRAIT OF JACQUELINE IN A MULTI-COLOR STRAW HAT**  
(Jan 17, 1962)  
Linocut,  
Private Collection  
© Succession Picasso 2013



Picasso's women had an enormous influence on his life and his art. His work changed whenever a new muse entered his life.

Many of his muses were his lovers, including Russian dancer Olga Koklova, whom he married in 1918 and left a decade later. In 1961, he married Jacqueline Roque and remained with her until his death in 1973 at age 92. She was the woman most often depicted in his art.

**PORTRAIT D'HOMME A LA FRAISE (PORTRAIT OF A MAN IN A RUFF, VARIATION AFTER EL GRECO)**  
April 9, 1962  
Linocut, Private Collection  
© Succession Picasso 2013



On April 9, 1962, Picasso worked on this five-colour linocut. His paintings were considerably influenced by El Greco, a painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. According to Picasso, El Greco's structure is Cubist. This work was created in the likeness of a presumed self-portrait of El Greco.

**Book it**

**PICASSO EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH CURATOR TATYANA FRANCK**

What: Picasso used traditional printmaking techniques and developed new methods to further his artistic explorations. Learn more in this curatorial walk-through.  
When: June 29, 2.30pm  
Admission: Free

**STPI OPEN HOUSE**

What: At the annual open house, you can try various printmaking techniques, including woodblock, lithography, etching, papermaking and silkscreen, and take home your own Picasso-inspired prints.  
When: Aug 24, 10am to 4pm  
Admission: Free

**RELIEF PRINTING WORKSHOP**

What: Led by Singapore Tyler Print Institute's senior printer Chong Li Sze, participants at the workshop will learn to apply print techniques to T-shirts or canvas bags.  
When: July 6 and Aug 3, 10am to 5pm  
Admission: \$200

**LITHOGRAPHY DEMONSTRATION**

What: Lithography, a printmaking process, entails drawing the image on a stone or plate from which prints are made. Picasso's lithographic technique evolved from a linear stroke, a product of his initiation in drypoint and aquatint. This session will be led by the institute's chief printer Eitaro Ogawa.  
When: July 13, 10am to 12 noon  
Admission: \$15

All events at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute Gallery