

## Press release

New exhibition

From June 17 to September 12, 2021

# Picasso. Bodies

*A celebration of the multiform human body*



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Parc des Champs-de-Bataille  
Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

418 643-2150  
1 866 220-2150

mnbaq.org

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### Press Contact

Linda Tremblay  
Media Relations Officer

418 644-6460, ext. 5532  
linda.tremblay@mnbaq.org

**Québec City, Sunday, July 12, 2020** ✦ In the presence of Minister of Culture and Communications Nathalie Roy, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) had the privilege to announce the presentation of an exhibition of works by **Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)**, the world's best-known artist, whose masterpieces celebrate in an exemplary manner the beauty of striking bodies. **Presented during an exclusive Canadian engagement from June 17 to September 12, 2021, *Picasso. Bodies*** will feature paintings and drawings never before presented in Québec of one of the 20th century's most important, prolific artists.

“One of the Québec government's priorities is to make accessible to Quebecers works such as the masterpieces of Picasso, a world-renowned artist of genius, and thereby raise the profile of the Capitale-Nationale and the MNBAQ,” Minister of Culture and Communications Nathalie Roy noted.

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Musée national  
des beaux-arts  
du Québec

## *Picasso is more relevant than ever*

Designed by the Musée national Picasso-Paris (France) based on its remarkable collection, in collaboration with the MNBAQ, this new exhibition will assemble a selection of 77 works, including 45 major paintings produced between 1895 and 1972. The MNBAQ is focusing on a key facet to which Picasso devoted himself throughout his career, the multiform representation of the human body, and the exhibition will enable visitors to appreciate and, above all, become more aware of, unusual beauty.



The exhibition will be a highlight in 2021 in Québec and will showcase the MNBAQ during the summer. A \$1-million contribution from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications is making it possible.

“This exhibition will enable the MNBAQ to position itself as an initiator of social change and a vector of well-being by celebrating body diversity. Through this major contribution, the MNBAQ will not only present in Québec City an exhibition of the works of a key figure in the history of world art, but also promote the acceptance of body diversity by fostering varied, robust, timely discussion of positive body image,” noted enthusiastically Jean-Luc Murray, Director General of the MNBAQ. “I would like to sincerely thank the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications for its unfailing support. Many Quebecers will be able to enjoy a major new international exhibition in the Capitale-Nationale through this special grant to museums,” he added.

## *Infinite exploration of the body*

The exhibition, designed as a thematic retrospective, focuses on the representation of the body in Picasso’s work. The body was truly one of the artist’s favourite subjects, a fertile prism through which to grasp the numerous metamorphoses inherent in his work. From portraits to more allegorical representations, starting with classicism when Picasso was studying fine art, until the abstraction that is his hallmark, the body is the focus of projections and reflections that are at once intimate and aesthetic. In Picasso’s hands, the body is deconstructed, reconstructed, and constantly transformed, and turns into plastic figures that both reveal part of the history of this unusual genius and the history of artistic modernity.



## Numerous masterpieces

The exhibition hinges on seven themes, *Portraits, Cubist and Post-cubist Anatomies, The Magic of Bodies, On the Beach, Extreme Tension, Monsters, Nudes and Disguises*, and will essentially encompass Picasso's paintings and graphic artworks, ranging from the Spanish master's formative years to the final canvases in the last period. It will also include a remarkable array of sculptures that evoke the multidisciplinary dimension of the work of this eternal explorer. The works include *Man with a Guitar* (1911), *The Acrobat* (1930), *Figures by the Sea* (1931), *Jacqueline with Crossed Hands* (1954) and *Luncheon on the Grass, After Manet* (1960), masterly paintings that represent the outstanding periods of the artist's career.

## The Musée national Picasso-Paris in a nutshell

The Musée national Picasso-Paris, inaugurated in 1985, assembles the most extensive collection in the world of the artist's works and covers all periods of his career. Created from the Picasso donation transferred to the French government by the artist's heirs following his death, it is in the Hôtel Salé in the 3rd district of Paris. Picasso's personal collection, which he assembled during his lifetime, comprising works by his friends (Braque, Matisse, Miró, Derain) and masters that he admired (Cézanne, Le Douanier Rousseau, Degas), was also donated to the government in 1978 and was added to the Picasso museum collection. In 1990, four years after the death of Jacqueline Roque, Picasso's wife, the museum received a new donation that rounded out the initial collection. In 1992, Picasso's personal archives were given to the government. The archives contain thousands of documents and photographs covering Picasso's entire life. They make the Picasso museum the foremost centre devoted to the study of the artist's life and work.

To obtain additional information: [www.museepicassoparis.fr](http://www.museepicassoparis.fr)

*The Musée national Picasso-Paris, in collaboration with the MNBAQ, has designed the Picasso à Québec exhibition, made possible by a contribution from the Mesure d'aide financière à l'intention des musées d'État pour des expositions internationales majeures.*

Québec 

***Picasso. Bodies***

**Pierre Lassonde Pavilion of the MNBAQ**

**From June 17 to September 12, 2021**

INFORMATION: 418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150

PRESS CONTACT:

**Geneviève Guoin**

Advisor

Cabinet de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications

418 380-2310 poste 7415

**Linda Tremblay**

Media relation officer

MNBAQ

[linda.tremblay@mnbaq.org](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnbaq.org) / 418 644-6460, ext. 5532, cell. 418 262-4681

Page 1 – Photo: Pablo Picasso, *Reading*, 1932. Oil on canvas, 130 x 97.5 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Mathieu Rabeau © Picasso Estate - SOCAN

Page 2 – Photo: Pablo Picasso, *Portrait of Dora Maar*, 1937. Oil on canvas, 55.3 x 46.3 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Mathieu Rabeau © Picasso Estate - SOCAN

Page 3 – Photo: Pablo Picasso, *The Acrobat*, 1930. Oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Adrien Didierjean © Picasso Estate - SOCAN