Press release
Exhibitions
Until September 12, 2021

**Picasso. Figures and Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation**

Don’t delay! The MNBAQ’s two summer exhibitions will end in one month.

“**With Picasso. Figures, the MNBAQ casts a ‘topical, courageous’ light on the artist’s work.”** [translation]
– Léa Harvey, *Le Soleil*

“**The six sections of the Picasso. Figures exhibition will delight art lovers.”** [translation]
– Éric Clément, *La Presse*

Québec City, Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – Only one month remains to see the *Picasso. Figures* exhibition, which ends on September 12, 2021, presented by Quebecor, which highlights Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). The masterpieces assembled celebrate the human figure, the artist’s favourite subject and presented in an exclusive Canadian engagement at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ).
To complement the exhibition, *Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation* exhibition, a group exhibition in a continuous circuit rooted in the contemporary world, will echo the work of this giant of modernity. Picasso rejected the diktats of the aesthetic cannons linked to the representation of the human figure, which enables the MNBAQ to raise certain contemporary social concerns and offer relevant, thoughtful reflection on body diversity. The exhibition links Picasso’s work with that of 10 contemporary artists, i.e., *The Womanhood Project* (Sara Hini and Cassandra Cacheira), Marion Wagschal, Arianne Clément, Haley Morris-Cafiero, Alain Benoît, Chason Yeboah, Fred Laforge, Kamissa Ma Koïta, Kezna Dalz and *Les folies passagères* (Maude Bergeron), who are interested in their practice in the representation of the body. This complementary adventure focuses on openness and rapprochement with others and proposes active participation in debate in our society aimed at improving it.

**Infinite exploration of the body**

Presented as a thematic retrospective that explores more than 75 years of the artist’s career, *Picasso. Figures* has been organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and MondoMostre. The exhibition comprises 76 works, including 47 major paintings, drawn from its remarkable collection, produced between 1895 and 1972. From portraits, influenced by years of apprenticeship inspired by 17th century Spanish masters, to the representations featuring expressionist, liberated body movements of the final period, the deconstructed, reconstructed, constantly transformed body turns into malleable figures on the path of this unique genius.

**Six seminal works illustrate six fascinating themes**

The exhibition focuses on six themes: *Female figures, Cubist figures, Magic figures, Sculptural figures, Disfigured figures,* and *Late figures.* It mainly comprises paintings, drawings, and prints, ranging from the Spanish master’s formative years to the final paintings in the last period. It also assembles a remarkable collection of sculptures that reflect the artist’s multidisciplinary dimension.

Among the showpieces that illustrate each of themes on the exhibition circuit and the striking periods of Picasso’s career, mention should be made of: *La Lecture* (1932), *Man with a Guitar* (1911), *Figure : projet pour un*
monument à Guillaume Apollinaire (1928), The Bathers (1918), Grand nu au fauteuil rouge (1929), and finally, Luncheon on the Grass, After Manet (1960).

A tribute to Picasso’s muses

Picasso is praised for his art. However, many biographies also give an account of his reprehensible behaviour towards women. Must we separate the artist’s life from his work? Picasso himself responded to this ethical and philosophical question: “It is not sufficient to know an artist’s works. It is also necessary to know when he produced them, why, how, and under what circumstances.” The MNBAQ has decided to pay tribute to the women in his life who were his muses since Picasso’s work is closely linked to his love stories, in which passion and violence and destruction meshed.

A pause during the visit

Furthermore, a section of the exhibition will also afford an opportunity to hear three of the twofold exhibition’s collaborators, Mickaël Bergeron, Cassandra Cacheiro and Sara Hini, propose avenues for reflection on the possibility of differentiating the lives of artists from their work. They broach this ethical question from different angles to sustain our personal reflection. In an age of cultural boycotts, maintaining a dialogue enables us to better grasp the questions and to highlight the grey areas that have persisted over time.

Credits

_Picasso. Figures is organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and MondoMostre. The contribution comes from the Mesure d’aide financière à l’intention des musées d’État pour des expositions internationales majeures. The exhibition_ Opening a Dialogue About Body Libération is organized by the MNBAQ.

The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a state corporation funded by the Gouvernement du Québec.
Picasso. Figures
Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation
Pierre Lassonde Pavilion of the MNBAQ
Until September 12, 2021

INFORMATION: 418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150 / mnbaq.org


General Information

OPENING HOURS OF THE MUSEUM COMPLEX

Until September 12, 2021
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesdays and Fridays until 9 p.m.

ADMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Featured exhibitions</th>
<th>MNBAQ National Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults: 25 $</td>
<td>Adults: 16 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors (65 and Over): 23 $</td>
<td>Seniors (65 and Over): 15 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 18 to 30: 15 $</td>
<td>Ages 18 to 30: 10 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 13 to 17: 7 $</td>
<td>Ages 13 to 17: 5 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families (2 adults accompanied up to 5 children aged 17 and under): 54 $</td>
<td>Families (2 adults accompanied up to 5 children aged 17 and under): 36 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group rate (15 people or more) for hotels, tour operators and companies: 22 $</td>
<td>Group rate (15 people or more) for hotels, tour operators and companies: 13 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 years and under: free</td>
<td>12 years and under: free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members: free</td>
<td>Members: free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays from, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.: half-price</td>
<td>Wednesdays from, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.: half-price</td>
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SERVICES AVAILABLE

Parking, Bookshop-Boutique, Wi-Fi access, free wheelchairs, self-service cloakroom and Baby Changing Room

TO CONTACT US

418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150
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