

Beloved by Picasso – The Power of the Model

Experience a sparkling succession of Pablo Picasso's best works when ARKEN opens *Beloved by Picasso – The Power of the Model* on 12 October. The exhibition has been created in a unique collaboration with Musée national Picasso-Paris and zooms in on the passionate story of Picasso and his powerful models.

Dressed and undressed, curvaceous and angular, sleeping and watching. Over seven decades the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso depicts the female body as a colourful metamorphosis – full of longing and willpower, desire and eroticism. The exhibition *Beloved by Picasso – The Power of the Model* looks at the relations between one of the greatest painters in world history and his models, and reinterprets Picasso's depictions of women. The famous artist's portraits of women raise issues that are highly topical today as more and more people are discussing gender, privileges and identity in the context of equality and feminism. ARKEN's Picasso exhibition focuses on the women in the portraits, their significance for Picasso's wild changes of style and the comedy of his dramatic stagings.

Erotic thirst and burning desire

Pablo Picasso is famous for his talent for artistic innovation and notorious for his uncompromising life. Picasso's artistic development and new stylistic departures parallel his love life – and it does not go quietly. In groundbreaking and expressive paintings Picasso interprets his family life, children, fame, artistic identity, love and crises. To one motif in particular he returns again and again: the naked female body, alone or in interaction with the artist. With a starting point in one of the most iconic motifs in the history of art – the painter and the model – Picasso depicts the desire to see and be seen. He shows our erotic thirst and eternal fascination with one another's bodies as well as the lustful insistent looks that arise in the interaction between the parties.

More than muses

Beloved by Picasso – The Power of the Model challenges the balance of power between the artist and his models and takes a fresh look at Picasso's pictures of those he loved. Picasso renders the women's strengths, emotional life, pleasure and anger with great empathy, and stages his own role as artist with self-irony and humour. For the first time ARKEN's exhibition tells the stories of Olga Khokhlova, Marie-Thérèse Walter, Dora Maar, Françoise Gilot and Jacqueline Roque as more than Picasso's muses and preferred subjects.

Masterpieces from Paris

ARKEN's Picasso exhibition presents numerous masterpieces from the unique collection of the Musée national Picasso-Paris. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints as well as historical film clips, photos, poems and a photo album. A magnificent Picasso experience awaits the visitor in the autumn, when *Beloved by Picasso – The Power of the Model* takes over ARKEN's galleries from 12 October.

New Picasso research

For the exhibition a richly illustrated catalogue will be published presenting new research on Picasso by Danish and international contributors. ARKEN's Curator Naja Rasmussen's peer-reviewed article explores the women's partnerships with Picasso, his stylistic developments and the gaze applied to them and himself. Émilie Bouvard, former curator at Musée national Picasso-Paris where she was in charge of paintings (1938-72), research and contemporary art, and recently appointed director of collections at Fondation Giacometti, examines Jacqueline Roque's significance for Picasso's late art. Wendy Steiner, author and professor emerita at Pennsylvania University, addresses current viewer positions and the Picasso model as an idea. Writer, scholar and curator Harri Kalha analyses Picasso's erotic and humorous (self-)staging and his eye for body and gender.

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