

# Pablo Picasso



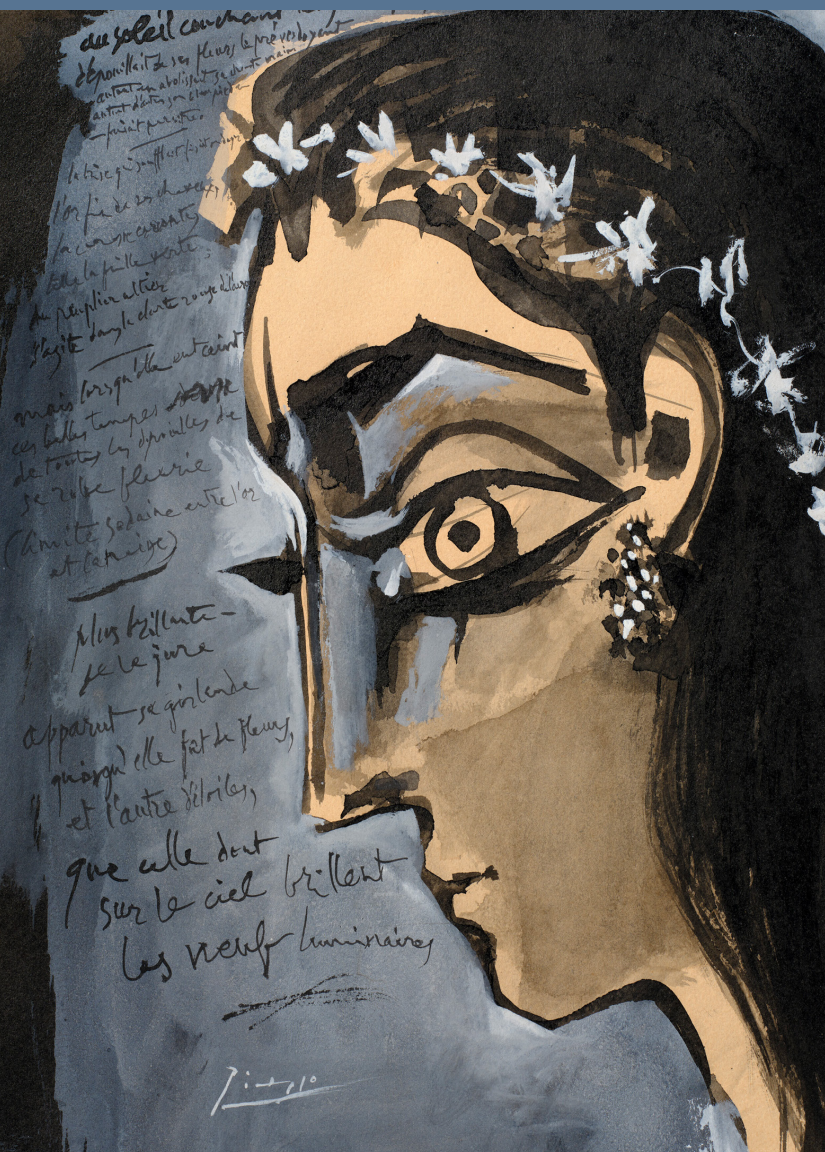
1881-1973 | SPANISH

*La nymphe au soleil couchant*

M.S.  Rau  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS



59.7 cm x 48.3 cm x 7.6 cm



“

It is Jacqueline's image that  
dominates Picasso's work.

—John Richardson, Picasso's biographer

”





For the legendary Pablo Picasso, love did much more than change his life—it changed the course of modern art. Among his famed muses, none was more enduring or influential than Jacqueline Roque, the last and longest great love of Picasso’s life. He painted her more than any other woman in his oeuvre. This is one such portrait of Jacqueline—an extraordinarily rare and stunning gouache that perfectly captures her as Picasso’s greatest muse.

Picasso and Jacqueline met in 1952 at the Madoura ceramic studio on the French Riviera, where her quiet poise and dark, classical beauty immediately captivated him. He famously courted her with a rose every day until she agreed to see him. Their romance would become “the relationship that would define the later years of Pablo Picasso’s life,” ushering in what biographer John Richardson would call Picasso’s “**Era of Jacqueline**.” Married in 1961 and together for 19 years, they settled at Notre-Dame-de-Vie in the hills above Cannes, where the Mediterranean light, new surroundings and their vibrant love brought renewed exuberance to Picasso’s art.

Captivated by her regal presence, Picasso loved painting her. Here, in *La nymphe au soleil couchant* (*The Nymph at Sunset*), Jacqueline’s profile emerges like a beacon of light from the rich black ink. Picasso has transcribed a moving, 16th-century love poem by Luis de Góngora (translated on p. 8 of this dossier), transforming Jacqueline into the mesmerizing nymph with a garland of flowers and stars. The painting’s dreamlike intensity reveals the unrestrained hand of Picasso, capturing the great artist at his most passionate and expressive. *The result is not a mere likeness of Jacqueline, but a lyrical embodiment of their love.*

As one of Picasso’s most important and prolific periods, works from the “Era of Jacqueline” are exceptionally rare and coveted. Similar works on paper to *La nymphe au soleil couchant* reside in the world’s most prestigious museums, including the Museu Picasso in Barcelona, Musée National Picasso-Paris, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Many of these museum works are prints—not one-of-a-kind paintings such as ours—and are not nearly as beautiful.

Jacqueline remained at Picasso’s side until his death in 1973, and the couple is entombed together at the Château of Vauvenargues beneath Mont Sainte-Victoire. In the years since, countless major exhibitions devoted to Picasso’s late years have consistently positioned Jacqueline at their center, recognizing her as the emotional and artistic catalyst for his final decades.





PROVENANCE

Maurice Loncle, Paris

Mme C., by descent from the above

Sale, Hotel Drouot, Paris, 22 November 1977, lot 69

Galerie Berggruen, Paris, circa 1978

Galleria Gustavo Mazzola, Milan

Private collection, Europe, acquired from the above in 1978

Private collection, Europe, by descent from the above

Private collection, acquired from the above

M.S. Rau, New Orleans




administration

COMITÉ PICASSO

	<p><b>Sans titre (Au soleil couchant la nymphe que j'adore)</b>          6 mai 1958          Gouache sur papier          37,7 x 27,4 cm          Daté en haut à gauche "6.5.58." et signé en bas au centre "Picasso"</p> <p><b>Untitled (Au soleil couchant la nymphe que j'adore)</b>          May 6, 1958          Gouache on paper          37.7 x 27.4 cm          Dated upper left "6.5.58." and signed lower center "Picasso"</p>
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En l'état actuel de ses connaissances et au regard des informations transmises et des recherches effectuées, le COMITÉ PICASSO est de l'avis que l'œuvre ci-dessus reproduite et décrite est une œuvre de Pablo Picasso.

Cette œuvre a été examinée lors d'une séance du COMITÉ PICASSO le 17/09/2025 et est enregistrée dans nos archives sous la référence 0293.

Based on the current state of its knowledge, information sent and research performed, the COMITÉ PICASSO is of the opinion that the work illustrated and described above is an artwork by Pablo Picasso.

This work has been examined during a session of the COMITÉ PICASSO on 09/17/2025 and is registered in our archives under the reference 0293.

Paris, 09/10/2025,



PALOMA RUIZ-PICASSO



DIANA WIDMAIER-RUIZ-PICASSO

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*No duplicate will be issued, this document must therefore follow the work to which it relates.*

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EURL au capital de 7.622,45 euros







P. PICASSO 6.5.58  
35 x 26 cm

Je soussigné, Heinz Berggruen, Directeur de  
la Galerie Berggruen, certifie que l'oeuvre  
reproduite au verso et mesurant 35 x 26 cm, est  
une oeuvre originale et authentique de Pablo  
Picasso de 1958.

Paris, le 21 mars 1978

Heinz Berggruen  
Berggruen & Cie  
70, rue de l'Université PARIS 7<sup>e</sup>  
R.C. Seine 57 B 222 99 C.C.P. 7441 77  
Tél. 222 02 12



## Transcription / Translation

Au soleil couchant la nymphe que j'adore  
 dépouillait de ses fleurs le pré verdoyant  
 autant abolissant sa droite main  
 autant d'autres fois son pied en  
 -faisait paraître.  
 la brise qui soufflait faisait ondoyer  
 l'or fin de ses cheveux  
 la course/masse caressante,  
 telle la feuille verte  
 du peuplier altier  
 s'agite dans la clarté rouge de l'air/l'aurore  
 quais lorsqu'elle eut ceint  
 ces belles tempes  
 de toutes les dépouilles de sa robe fleurie  
 (limite solaire entre l'or et la neige)  
 plus brillante –  
 je le jure  
 apparut sa guirlande  
 quoiqu'elle fut de fleurs,  
 et l'autre d'étoiles  
 que celle dont  
 sur le ciel brillent  
 les neuf luminaires

At sunset the nymph that I adore  
 picked her flowers in the verdant meadow  
 she did away with her right hand  
 sometimes her foot too  
 - as it appeared.  
 The breeze that blew  
 made the fine gold of her hair ripple  
 whose soft course/mass  
 much like the green leaf  
 of the grand poplar tree  
 rustles in the red light of the air/dawn  
 for when she had encircled  
 her beautiful temples  
 with all the remains of her floral dress  
 (a solar essence on the verge between gold and snow)  
 more brilliant-  
 I swear  
 did her garland appear  
 despite being made of flowers  
 and the other stars  
 than the nine luminaries  
 that shine brightly  
 in the sky

Translation of the poem depicted in this work. It is an excerpt from Spanish Baroque poet  
 Luis de Góngora's *Fábula de Polifemo y Galatea*, written in 1612.





# AUCTION COMPARABLES



**Pablo Picasso**

**FEMME ENDORMIE**

charcoal on primed canvas

Height 46 x Width 61 cm.

Height 18.11 x Width 24.016 in.

1931

**28 July 2020** over 5 years ago

Sotheby's London

Rembrandt to Richter – [Lot 00014]

est. 6,000,000 - 9,000,000 GBP

**7,316,750** GBP ©

est. 7,767,995 - 11,651,993 USD

**9,472,747** USD ©



**Pablo Picasso**

**Tête classique**

black conté crayon, charcoal and estompe on rose tinted paper

Height 63 x Width 47.8 cm.

Height 24.803 x Width 18.819 in.

1923

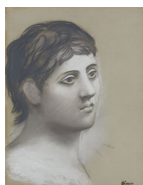
**09 November 2022** over 3 years ago

Christie's New York

Visionary: The Paul G. Allen Collection Part I – [Lot 00010]

est. 3,000,000 - 5,000,000 USD

**9,435,500** USD ©



**Pablo Picasso**

**Tête d'homme**

pastel on paper

Height 68.9 x Width 53.7 cm.

Height 27.126 x Width 21.142 in.

1921

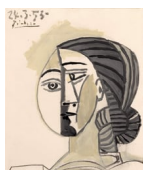
**03 November 2010** over 15 years ago

Christie's New York

Impressionist/Modern Evening Sale – [Lot 00026]

est. 5,000,000 - 7,000,000 USD

**6,130,500** USD ©



**Pablo Picasso**

**Tête de femme | 《女子頭像》**

oil and ripolin on canvas

Height 45.9 x Width 37.7 cm.

Height 18.071 x Width 14.843 in.

1953

**16 November 2021** over 4 years ago

Sotheby's New York

Modern Evening Auction – [Lot 00044]

est. 2,500,000 - 3,500,000 USD

**5,549,400** USD ©





**Pablo Picasso**

*La femme qui pleure I*

drypoint, aquatint, etching and scraper

Height 69 x Width 49.5 cm.

Height 27.165 x Width 19.488 in.

1937

Edition: 8/15

**05 February 2014** *about 12 years ago*

**Sotheby's London**

*Impressionist, Modern & Surrealist Art Evening Sale – [Lot 00019]*

est. 1,200,000 - 1,800,000 GBP

**3,218,500** GBP ©

est. 1,956,628 - 2,934,942 USD

**5,247,839** USD ©

↑ 79% est



**Pablo Picasso**

*La femme qui pleure, I*

drypoint, aquatint, etching and scraper

Height 68.9 x Width 49.2 cm.

Height 27.126 x Width 19.37 in.

1937

Edition: ed. 11/15

**14 May 2015** *almost 11 years ago*

**Christie's New York**

*Impressionist and Modern Evening Sale Including Property from the John C. Whitehead Collection – [Lot 0005C]*

est. 4,000,000 - 6,000,000 USD

**4,645,000** USD ©



**Pablo Picasso**

*Buste de femme*

gouache, watercolor and wash on paper

Height 75 x Width 56 cm.

Height 29.528 x Width 22.047 in.

1972

**23 June 2010** *over 15 years ago*

**Christie's London**

*Impressionist/Modern Evening Sale – [Lot 00050]*

est. 400,000 - 600,000 GBP

**2,057,250** GBP ©

est. 591,147 - 886,721 USD

**3,040,345** USD ©

↑ 243% est



**Pablo Picasso**

*Tête classique*

black crayon

Height 63.5 x Width 47.8 cm.

Height 25 x Width 18.819 in.

1921

**27 June 1995** *over 30 years ago*

**Sotheby's London**

*Impressionist & Modern Pntgs, Draws & Sculp., P.I – [Lot 00028]*

est. 900,000 - 1,200,000 GBP

**1,800,000** GBP ©

est. 1,426,081 - 1,901,441 USD

**2,852,162** USD ©

↑ 50% est





## Pablo Picasso | *Jacqueline with Headband*

n.d.

**Medium:** Ink wash on paper

**Dimensions:** 29 x 23 inches | 74 x 60 cm



Museu Picasso  
Barcelona, Spain



## Pablo Picasso | *Jacqueline with a Black Scarf*

n.d.

**Medium:** Lithograph

**Dimensions:** 26 x 20 inches | 66 x 50.4 cm



Museu Picasso  
Barcelona, Spain





## Pablo Picasso | *Portrait of Jacqueline*

1962

**Medium:** Graphite and pen on paper

**Dimensions:** 13<sup>3/4</sup> x 9<sup>7/8</sup> inches | 34.9 x 25 cm



The Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL, United States



## Pablo Picasso | *Jacqueline dans l'atelier*

1957

**Medium:** Gouache and ink on paper

**Dimensions:** 25 x 31 inches | 63.5 x 80 cm



PICASSO

Musée Picasso Paris  
Paris, France

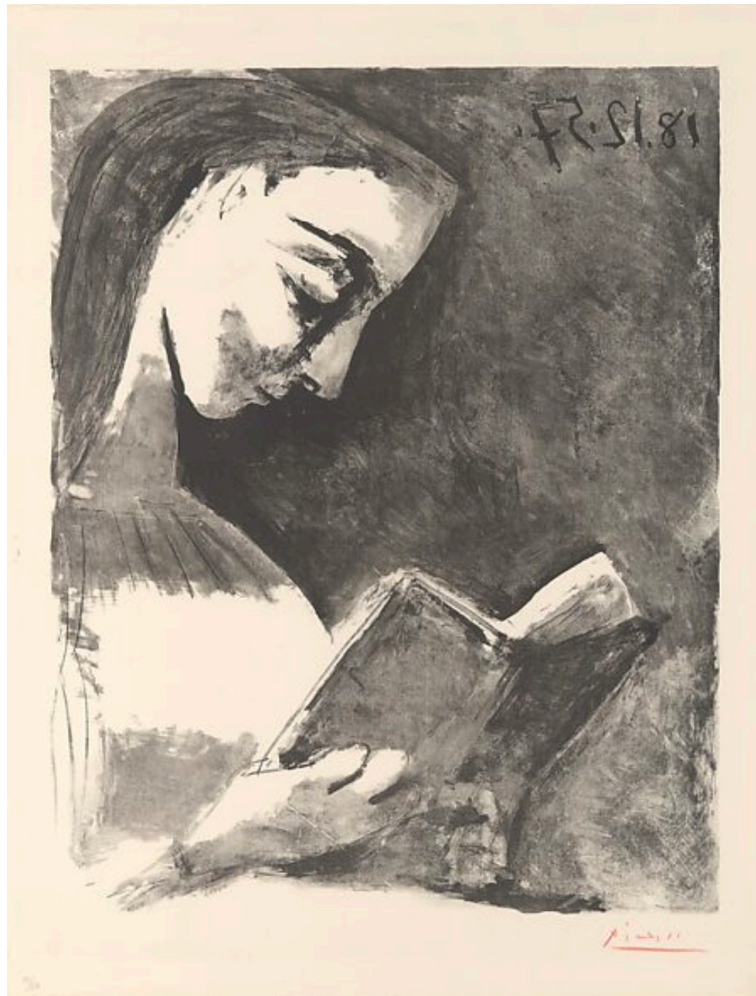


## Pablo Picasso | *Jacqueline Reading*

1957

**Medium:** Lithograph

**Dimensions:** 21<sup>7/8</sup> x 17<sup>3/8</sup> inches | 55.6 x 44.1 cm



The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York, NY, United States







[msrau.com](http://msrau.com) | 504-826-8856