



Woman combing her Hair

Pablo Picasso

Not on display

Title/Description: Woman combing her Hair

Artist/Maker: Pablo Picasso

Born: 1906

Measurements: Unframed: (h. 555 x w. 400 x d. 1 mm) Framed: (h. 935 x w. 765 x d. 34 mm)

Inscription: signature

Accession Number: 7

Historic Period: 20th century

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

This is a sublime example of Picasso's draughtsmanship and perhaps the single greatest drawing in the collection. Any examination of Picasso's work cannot ignore the importance his relationships with women had on his artistic development. Fernande Oliver is widely seen as Picasso's first great love. They met in 1904 and they lived together from 1905 until 1912. This drawing from 1906 predates the cubist experimentation of the following year. This tender portrayal retains a form of neo-classicism but already demonstrates an interest in African and Iberian sculpture. The composition and, in particular, the posture powerfully translate the latent energy bound up in so-called 'primitive' sculpture, which Picasso had just discovered. The stylised facial features with large almond-shaped eyes are delivered with economy but demonstrate the artist's tenderness towards his subject.

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Calvin Winner, Head of Collections, Sainsbury Centre

Exhibitions

'We The Moderns', Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, 1/2007 - 3/2007

'Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth', Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 13/3/2022 - 17/7/2022

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from Mayor Gallery in 1935.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
