



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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## **Visiting Picasso Ushers In Spring At The Flint Institute Of Arts**

Flint, MI – Last weekend, the Flint Institute of Arts began its exhibition of a painting by one of the 20th-century's most well-known artists: Pablo Picasso. The loan is part of a reciprocal agreement with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, which is borrowing the FIA's *Angel* by Peter Paul Rubens for its exhibition, *Early Rubens*. That exhibition, which opened on April 6, 2019 at San Francisco's Legion of Honor Museum, will travel to Toronto in September. *Femme Assise* remains on display at the FIA through January 2020. Funding from Dort Federal Credit Union made the exhibition possible.

Executed in Paris over the winter of 1926-1927, *Femme Assise (Seated Woman)* had great personal significance to the artist. It depicts his wife, Olga Koklova, a Russian dancer with whom he fell in love with in 1917. This identification, however, is not as straightforward as it appears. According to curator Brydon Smith, the work is actually a family portrait, with Picasso combining and overlapping the facial features of three people in one figure. On the left, in profile, is a self-portrait of Picasso; the childlike profile on the right is son Paulo, who was roughly six at the time; the head in the center, with its hair falling down to one side, is Olga, also in profile.

In addition to *Femme Assise*, three works by Picasso owned by the FIA as well as two works on loan from private collectors are on display. The exhibition is rounded out by Cubist paintings from the museum's permanent collection from artists such as Man Ray and Zoltan Sepeshy. Text accompanying the objects explores the women in Picasso's life as well as the importance of Cubism as a revolutionary movement in modern art.

For more information on the exhibition or to interview a member of the FIA Curatorial staff, please contact FIA Communications Coordinator Chene Koppitz at [ckoppitz@flintarts.org](mailto:ckoppitz@flintarts.org) or 810.237.7387.

### **ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciate of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St. in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Monday-Friday 12-5 PM; Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, and Sunday 1-5PM. FIA admission is free to all Genesee Country residents, members, and children under 12. Adults are \$10; Seniors and students with current ID from an educational institution are \$8. Saturdays are free to all thanks to Huntington Bank.

For more information, call 810.234.1695 or visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org).