



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visiting Picasso Ends Its Nearly Nine Month FIA Stay This Weekend

After a successful visit that spanned most of 2019, *Femme Assise (Seated Woman)* by Pablo Picasso will depart the Flint Institute of Arts as 2020 begins. The loan was part of a reciprocal agreement with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, which borrowed 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, traveled to Toronto in September 2019. The showing of *Femme Assise* at the FIA was made possible by funding from Dort Federal Credit Union.

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 Max Weber 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. The final day for the public to view *Femme Assise* and the other works in the exhibition is Sunday, January 5, 2020.

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 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 appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Sat 10 AM-5 PM and Sun 1-5 PM. Gallery admission is free for all Genesee County residents, FIA members, and children under 12; Adults are \$10; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$8. Saturdays are free for all visitors thanks to Huntington Bank.

For more information, please visit www.flintarts.org