

Picasso: The 347 Series

September 17 – October 29, 2022
Floor 3

Press Release

For press inquiries please contact
Bianca Clark at (+1) 212-541-4900
or clark@marlboroughgallery.com

Marlborough Graphics is pleased to present *Picasso: The 347 Series*, a selection of prints made by the artist in the 1960s. These prints among the last handsigned etchings and engravings the artist ever created, with each of the original plates etched or engraved by the hand of Picasso alone. At eighty-six years old in 1968, Picasso had created 347 etchings and aquatints in just seven months (March 16 – October 5, 1968).

Picasso collaborated with the master printers Piero and Aldo Crommelynck, who brought in a special press from their atelier in Paris in 1963 to Picasso's private studio near Cannes. The relationship between the artist and the brothers Crommelynck, who were familiar with the demands and the working process of Picasso, was responsible for the extraordinary output of intaglio prints he created at the end of his life. In just seven months, Pablo Picasso engaged in a historical battle against the wave of conceptual and theoretical "art" that was the rage in avant-garde circles in the late 1960s.

While combining different cultures, icons and periods in this series, Picasso was able to create a unifying theme throughout; that of the narrator and observer rather than participant. The works are a panorama of compelling imagery including, circus figures, musketeers, caballeros, musicians, and painters with their models, many charged with an erotic tone.

Picasso's command of the challenging techniques of etching, engraving, dry-point and aquatint are revealed forcefully in the 347 works, along with the highly personal and facile drawing ability he possessed in his late years. Commenting on the series, the artist said, "I spend hour after hour while I draw, observing my creatures and thinking about the mad things they're up to; basically it's my way of writing fiction."

The complete 347 Series is part of the permanent collection of Picasso Museum in Barcelona, Spain; National Library of Paris, France; Picasso Museum in Paris, France; Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Art Museum of Israel, Jerusalem; and The Gottfried Keller Stiftung, Switzerland.



347 Series: No. 163, June 19, 1968
etching, edition of 50
13¾ × 11 in. / 34.9 × 27.9 cm

Marlborough

545 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001
+1 212 541 4900
marlboroughnewyork.com