



475 Park Avenue at 57th Street, New York, New York 10022

Tel: (212) 355-4545 Fax: (212) 355-4547 www.forumgallery.com

Robert Fishko, *Director*

PABLO PICASSO

(1881-1973)

Deux Femmes avec un Vase à Fleurs, 1959

(September 27, Cannes)

linocut printed in two colors on Arches wove paper

20 1/16 x 25 inches (image)

24 3/8 x 29 1/2 inches (sheet)

One of approximately 20 artist proofs outside the

Edition of 50, of the fourth (final) state

Signed in pencil lower right "Picasso"



Printed by Arnéra, Vallauris, 1960

Published by Galerie Louise Leiris, Paris, 1960

(Bloch 0915) (Baer 1239.IV.B.b)

Certificate of Authenticity provided by Bouquinerie de L'institut, Paris

Provenance

The Artist

Jacqueline Roque

Thence by descent to the Estate

Selected Literature

Bloch, Georges. *Pablo Picasso Volume I: Catalogue of the Printed Graphic Work 1904-1967*, Berne: Kornfeld and Klipstein, 1971, no. 915, p. 199, Illustrated.

Baer, Brigitte. *Picasso: Peintre-Graveur, Tome V, Catalogue Raisonné de L'Oeuvre Gravé et des Monotypes, 1959-1965*, Berne: Editions Kornfeld, 1989, no. 1239, p. 284-286, Illustrated.

Note

Once living permanently in the south of France, Picasso was introduced to master-printer Hidalgo Arnéra who encouraged Picasso's exploration of the relief printing process of linocut in which the image is carved out of linoleum blocks. Arnéra proved to be the ideal experimental companion for Picasso: totally devoted, he made his extensive knowledge of linoleum freely available to Picasso who was eager to learn all Arnéra could teach him.

While Picasso's first linocuts were used as posters to advertise the bullfights and ceramic exhibition in Vallauris, he quickly transformed the linocut medium into a unique form of expression unlike anything the world had ever seen, predominantly by placing increased emphasis on color and form, but also by way of his revolutionary solution to a technical problem. In order to improve the registration and streamline the process of printing multicolored images from a single linoleum block, Picasso, in collaboration with Arnéra, invented a new technique known as *reduction method*. "Picasso astonished the ablest printmakers again and again. It is not only that he masters the difficulties of new techniques with playful ease; he soon goes on to obtain results that had hitherto been deemed impossible."¹

Deux Femmes avec un Vase à Fleurs, 1959, a reductive linocut dated 27 September 1959, was printed by Arnéra in cream white on a black ground, resulting in its blue-grey tonality. The two women in the scene were modeled after Jacqueline Roque, Picasso's last great muse and second wife following the death of his first wife, Olga, from whom Picasso was never divorced. The only woman he rendered for the remainder of his life, Jacqueline's image dominated Picasso's linocuts and lithographs during their twenty-year relationship marking a significant period within his graphic oeuvre. This impression, signed by Picasso at the lower right, was kept by Jacqueline Roque in her personal collection, passing to her Estate when she died in 1986.

¹ Bloch, Georges. *Pablo Picasso: Volume I, Catalogue of the Printed Graphic Work 1904-1967*, 1971, p.13.