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Robert Fishko, *Director*

## **PABLO PICASSO**

[1881-1973]

*Portrait de Jacqueline*, 1959

[October 17, Cannes]

linocut printed in two colors on Arches wove paper

25 1/4 x 20 5/8 inches [image]

29 5/8 x 24 3/8 inches [sheet]

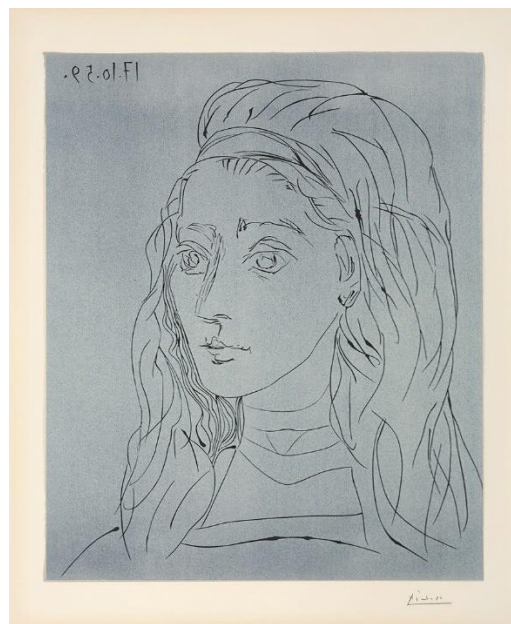
One of 20 proofs outside the Edition of 50

Signed in pencil lower right "Picasso"

Printed by Arnéra, Vallauris, 1959

Published by Galerie Louise Leiris, Paris, 1959

[Bloch 0923] [Baer 1245.B.b]



## **Provenance**

The Artist and His Estate

Jacqueline Roque, Paris [from the Picasso Estate]

The Estate of Jacqueline Roque

## **Selected Literature**

Bloch, Georges. *Pablo Picasso: Volume I, Catalogue of the Printed Graphic Work 1904-1967*, Berne: Editions Kornfeld and Klipstein, 1971, no. 923, p. 201, 203, Illustrated.

Baer, Brigitte. *Picasso: Peintre-Graveur, Tome V, Catalogue Raisonné de L'Oeuvre Gravé et des Monotypes, 1959-1965*, Berne: Editions Kornfeld, 1989, no. 1245, p. 296, Illustrated.

## Note

Following his move to the south of France, in the summer of 1952 the then 71-year-old Picasso met Jacqueline Roque, then just 25, at the Madoura Pottery workshop in Vallauris where Jacqueline worked and Picasso had begun making ceramics. Jacqueline became Picasso's last great muse and second wife following the death of Olga from whom Picasso was never divorced. The only woman he rendered for the remainder of his life, the image of Jacqueline dominated Picasso's linocuts and lithographs of the last twenty years of his life marking a significant period within his graphic oeuvre.

Coinciding with this period of personal contentment, Picasso met the printer Hidalgo Arnéra. When Picasso was invited to create a poster to advertise the town of Vallauris' annual art exhibition, Arnéra suggested to Picasso that he utilize linocut, a technique well suited to poster design. Soon after, Jacqueline's distinctive profile appeared on his linoleum blocks in images born of a mature Picasso whose lifetime of artistic achievement and virtuosic printmaking percolated into unstoppable creative output.

A celebration of his muse and love, Picasso created the memorable linocut, *Portrait de Jacqueline* in 1959. In this especially sensitive work, Picasso pushes the medium to the limits, carving lines in the linoleum so exquisitely fine that it is hard to believe the beautiful form of Jacqueline's thick, cascading locks pulled back with a headband, as Picasso favored, to reveal her striking features is not a work in pen and ink. The radically delicate black linework comes to life set against the contrasting, velvety soft grey-blue surround in this two-color linocut.

One of 20 proofs outside the Edition of 50, each signed by Picasso, the immaculate printing of this impression is a testament to Picasso's lifelong practice of close collaboration with his chosen printer who brought with them not only expertise but an enthusiasm for Picasso's inevitable innovations within the medium. This particular impression was selected by Jacqueline Roque for her personal collection, passing to her Estate when she died in 1986.