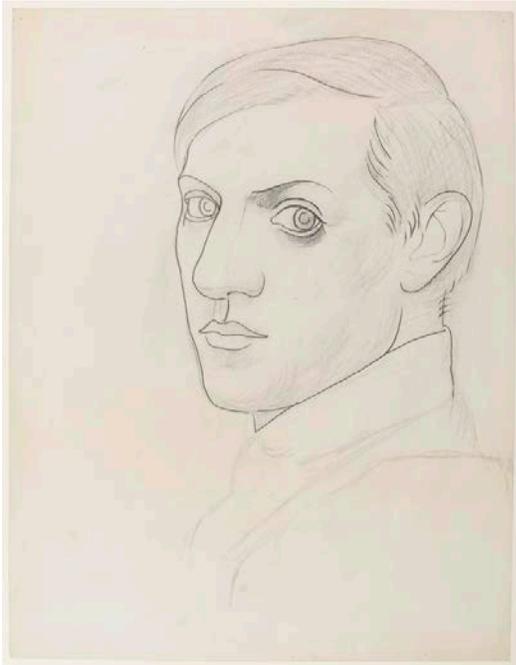


THE MENIL COLLECTION TO PRESENT *PICASSO THE LINE*
SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 – JANUARY 8, 2017,
THE FIRST EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF
LINE DRAWING IN THE ARTIST'S PRACTICE



HOUSTON, TX, April 5, 2016 — Supremely gifted as a draftsman and fascinated from an early age by the highly linear art of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Pablo Picasso made line drawings at every stage of his career, adapting them to the dazzling variety of styles and themes he developed. As the artist himself once remarked, recognizing the essential role that this fundamental practice played in his work, “Line drawings are the only ones that cannot be imitated.” Museums in the past have presented exhibitions focused on Picasso’s drawings—but the Menil Collection is the first to provide a full-scale exploration of this distinctive aspect of his art, in the exhibition *Picasso The Line*.

Presented exclusively at the Menil Collection, where it will be on view from September 16, 2016 through January 8, 2017, *Picasso The Line* is organized by guest curator Carmen Giménez, founding director of the Museo Picasso Málaga, whose previous exhibitions have included the groundbreaking *Picasso and the Age of Iron* (1993) and *Picasso Black and White* (2012-13) for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. Clare Elliott, Assistant Curator at the Menil Collection, has managed the exhibition on behalf of the museum.

David Breslin, the John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation Chief Curator of the Menil Drawing Institute, said, “By working with Carmen Giménez to present *Picasso The Line*, we are giving the public a thrilling opportunity to explore a major aspect of Picasso’s work, while underscoring the longstanding commitment of the Menil Collection to drawing as a distinct art form, which brings viewers close to the movement of an artist’s mind. This

exceptional exhibition brings together line drawings from all of Picasso's most important periods and shows the extraordinary range of media in which he made these works, from pen and pencil to charcoal and *papier collé*."

Picasso The Line will present more than 90 works on paper from public and private collections in the United States and Europe, dating from 1901-02 (shortly after Picasso settled in Paris) through 1970, not long before his death in 1973. The exhibition includes seldom-seen drawings by Picasso from the Menil's holdings, as well as works on loan that have never before been exhibited in the United States.

Carmen Giménez said, "Picasso has long been recognized as a master across disciplines and one of the most accomplished draftsmen of the last century. This exhibition will explore how he followed up on the groundbreaking lesson of Ingres, trying to resolve the three dimensions of form with merely a linear arrangement, thus relinquishing perspective. The first exhibition to fully examine Picasso's line drawings, it will convey the critical position that these powerful works hold within his oeuvre."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated scholarly catalogue with essays by Carmen Giménez, David Breslin, and Clare Elliott.

Bank of America is the Lead Corporate Sponsor for *Picasso The Line*.

This exhibition is generously supported by Madame Bérengère Primat; The Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation; Janie C. Lee and David B. Warren; Susan Vaughan Foundation; Richard and Susan Anderson; Mike and Diane Cannon; Schlumberger Limited; Skadden, Arps; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Clare Casademont and Michael Metz; Janet and Paul Hobby; John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation; Linda and George Kelly; Anne and David Kirkland; Franci Neely; Susanne and William E. Pritchard III; Leslie and Shannon Sasser; Anne and Bill Stewart; Marcy Taub Wessel, Henry J. N. Taub II, and the Taub Foundation; and the City of Houston.

United Airlines is the exclusive travel partner of the Menil Collection.

About the Menil Collection

A legacy of the philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. The museum presents regular rotations of artworks from its growing permanent collection, organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection's main museum building, the first building in the United States designed by Renzo Piano, anchors a parklike 30-acre campus, which

also includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel—now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists—and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee, expected to open in 2017, will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm, and charges no admission fee.

Also at the Menil

William N. Copley: The World According to CPLY

On view through July 24, 2016

Life is Once, Forever: Henri Cartier-Bresson Photographs

On view through July 24, 2016

Francis Alijs: The Fabiola Project

On view through January 28, 2018

As Essential as Dreams: Self-Taught Art from the Collection of John and Stephanie Smither

On view through October 16, 2016

Andy Warhol: Sunset

August 19, 2016 – January 8, 2017

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Image: Pablo Picasso, Self-portrait (Autoportrait), 1918. Graphite on paper, 25 1/4 × 19 1/2 in. (64.2 × 49.4 cm). Musée national Picasso, Paris. © 2016 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: RMN-Grand Palais / Art Resource, NY

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