

PABLO PICASSO

Serenade for the reclining woman. 1959

Provenance: The Hidalgo Arnera Archives

EXTREMELY RARE

Pablo Picasso. 1881 -1973

The world's favourite artist is also the most collected. The market for works by Picasso is highly liquid, buoyant and can be extremely rewarding. His desire to push the boundaries of printmaking produced many of the world's most historically important and technically accomplished works.

Picasso's graphic oeuvre spans more than seven decades, from 1899 to 1972. His published prints total approximately 2000 different images pulled from metal, stone, wood, linoleum and celluloid. His unpublished prints, perhaps 200 more, have yet to be exactly counted.

Picasso's prints demonstrate his intuitive and characteristic ability to recognize and exploit the possibilities inherent in any medium in which he chose to work. Once he had mastered the traditional methods of a print medium, like etching on metal, Picasso usually experimented further, pursuing, for example, scarcely known intaglio techniques such as sugar-lift aquatint. The printed graphic work of Picasso shows a clearly defined succession of periods in which certain techniques predominated.

Picasso has astonished the ablest printmakers again and again. It is not only that he mastered the difficulties of new techniques with playful ease; he soon went on to obtain results that had hitherto been deemed impossible. A virtuoso craftsman in engraving, etching, lithography and linocut, he explored their secrets with patience and love and elicits from each medium the very subtlest effects the medium allows. It is hardly surprising that five, ten or even thirty states were sometimes necessary before a masterpiece emerged from his hands.

We specialise in supplying only the finest works from Pablo Picasso's graphic oeuvre; and offer the discerning investor works of the utmost rarity and investment potential.

Picasso first started experimenting with Linocuts during the early 1950s. At this time, he lived mostly in the town of Vallauris in the South of France, but the distance from Paris, where the typographers he was used to working with were located, made his work difficult. So he began to experiment with cutting linoleum, which was a much simpler method, using a knife, gouge or chisel. Famed for his mastery of technique, Picasso found perfect expression through Linogravure becoming completely absorbed by the process; he worked with his printer, Hidalgo Arnéra on a daily basis.

Because he found the traditional technique he used to create *The Portrait of a Girl after Cranach* (1958), his first colour linocut, rather time-consuming, he decided to invent a simpler way to apply the method. Instead of using a different linoleum surface for each colour, he would cut into the same surface. He cut and printed according to the number of colours he wanted to use in each work. From 1959 to 1962, Picasso made about 100 linoleum engravings using his new method.



Picasso

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Immediate rental available

Linocut printed in colours, 1959

Not in Bloch, Baer 1233 first state

Printed in brown over a beige background on Arches paper.

Baer records seven or eight impressions of this state.

There was no edition of this subject.

Exceptionally rare.

Stamped in ink on the verso: 'Imprimerie Arnera Archives/Non Signe'

Watermark: Arches

Image size: 53.5 x 64.5 cm (21.06 x 25.39 ins)

Paper size: 62 x 75 cm (24.41 x 29.53)

Provenance: The Archives of Hidalgo Arnera