

McCLAIN
GALLERY

« “You can see him searching and trying new styles that almost transcends personal style. He has so many. You can see all the ways he explores making images and how the lines predominate in that process.” —CLARE ELLIOTT, ASSISTANT CURATOR AT THE MENIL COLLECTION »



PORTRAIT OF A LADY “Tete de Femme IV, Portrait de Dora Maar” by Pablo Picasso, on display at McClain Gallery

SOCIETY & CULTURE

exhibits



HIGH NOTE “Violin on a Table” by Pablo Picasso, on display at the Menil Collection

LINING UP

A local art gallery and one of H-Town’s most prestigious museums explore the creative process of the legendary Pablo Picasso.

By Mellanie Perez

There’s little doubt that Picasso is one of the most famous artists in modern history, and any world-class museum is sure to house at least one or two of his iconic paintings. Behind the oils, however, stands a much less displayed anthology of drawings that truly show the master’s hand. This fall, Houston is lucky enough to see not one, but two different exhibits featuring these rarely displayed sketches and prints.

For the past four years, and with help from Carmen Giménez of the Museo Picasso Málaga, curators David Breslin and Clare Elliott have been gathering works for the Menil Collection’s *Picasso The Line*, an exhibition of some 90 works that

opens Sept. 16. The result is a catalogue that spans multiple styles and art movements, and shows the artist’s vast range and enduring timelessness. “He’s recognizably Picasso, yet you can’t classify it,” says Elliott. “It’s almost like he’s his own movement.”

Featuring recognizable work such as “Les Femmes d’Alger (O. J.)” and “Portrait of Igor Stravinsky,” the exhibition is also an opportunity to showcase the de Menil family’s loyalty to the artist—of the many pieces curated from around the world, six belonged to them. In fact, “one of the first exhibitions they organized was of their cubist collection, which Picasso was a main part of,” says Elliott. This a chance to continue that legacy.

Nearby, McClain Gallery also joins the Picasso convo, opening its own exhibit Sept. 13. More than 50 prints complement the Menil show by exploring yet another technique mastered by the iconic artist.

“It’s hard to talk about the 20th century if you don’t talk about Picasso,” says Elliott. “He made [the] cubist rupture with three-dimensional representation. Everything else now is following it.” menil.org; mcclaingallery.com