

GAGOSIAN

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**EXTENDED THROUGH
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017**

PICASSO'S PICASSOS

**A SELECTION FROM THE COLLECTION
OF MAYA RUIZ-PICASSO**

**GAGOSIAN
976 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK**

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Gagosian is pleased to present "Picasso's Picassos: A Selection from the Collection of Maya Ruiz-Picasso," an exhibition of works from the collection of Maya Ruiz-Picasso, organized by Diana Widmaier Picasso.

Maya Ruiz-Picasso, born on September 5, 1935, is the daughter of Pablo Picasso and his iconic muse Marie-Thérèse Walter. Her personal collection is the result of an extraordinary legacy: Picasso died in 1973, leaving behind a vast body of work including paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, engravings and lithographs, but also personal archives and photographs which were divided between his surviving heirs (the four children and his last wife). In 1979, the artworks donated to the French State by Picasso's heirs enriched the national collection and allowed for the creation of the Musée Picasso in Paris, a monographic museum entirely devoted to the artist's life and work.

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Since her father's death, Maya Ruiz-Picasso has dedicated her time and energy to highlighting Picasso's genius, contributing to its knowledge through her expertise and support of many projects. In the 1980s, she presented a part of her collection through several exhibitions in Asia, showing Picasso's most intimate images and unpublished archival material. While she has donated works to leading arts institutions over the years, she continues to dwell among her favorites, surrounding herself and her children with an intimate "family album" unlike any other.

This unique collection of paintings and sculpture, selected by Maya's daughter, art historian and curator Diana Widmaier Picasso, includes major works in an unprecedented exhibition. Drawn from the forty-year period between 1931 and 1971, the selection provides a personal view of the family history reflected in Picasso's celebrated oeuvre. They include several portraits of Marie-Thérèse Walter; the famous portrait of Maya as a child, *Maya à la poupée et au cheval* (1938); *Le Baiser* (1931), a voracious kiss expressing an act of both love and violence; and *El bobo* (1959), the portrait of a lovable street urchin, inspired by characters in paintings by Spanish old masters Velázquez and Murillo. Also on view is the plaster model of Picasso's figure of the pregnant Françoise Gilot, *La femme enceinte* (1959).

"Picasso's Picassos: A Selection from the Collection of Maya Ruiz-Picasso" is the first chapter in a series of focused exhibitions that will explore emergent themes in this unique collection.

For further information please contact the gallery at newyork@gagosian.com or at +1.212.744.2313. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

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Images: Left: *Maya à la poupée et au cheval*, 1938, oil on canvas, 28 3/4 × 23 5/8 inches (73 × 60 cm) © 2016 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo by Béatrice Hatala; Right: Picasso and his daughter Maya with their dog Riki on the balcony of their apartment on Boulevard Henri IV, Paris, August 1944 © Archives Maya Widmaier-Ruiz-Picasso.