

Under the high patronage of their Excellencies

Shri K. R. Narayan

President

of the

Republic of India

Mr. Jacques Chirac

President

of the

Republic of France

Picasso

METAMORPHOSES
1900-1972 FROM THE
FRENCH COLLECTIONS



presents a special preview on Wednesday, 13th February, 2002

National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai.

Jointly organised by

National Gallery of Modern Art

and

The Embassy of France in India

Transport of exhibits between Delhi and Mumbai on



Picasso : Metamorphoses 1900-1972

from the French Collections

The idea of bringing Picasso's works to India was first conceived when His Excellency Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France met the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri. I.K. Gujral. During their discussions the two leaders felt that in order to promote Indo-French cultural relations, a major exhibition of a renowned artist from France should be organised in India.

It so happened that Picasso was a common choice. The matter was discussed further, during the visit of His Excellency K.R. Narayanan to France in April, 2000. Ms. Marie Laure Bernadac, Chief Curator Musee Picasso, Paris, was appointed as the French curator and came to India to look at the museums where the exhibitions could be organized. Saryu Doshi was nominated as the Indian curator for the exhibition.

Picasso: Metamorphoses (1900-1972) would showcase 122 works of one of the greatest artist of the 20th Century from various French Collections. This would be the first exhibition to display works of the artist in India, some of which have never left France before. These would include Picasso's paintings, sculptures, drawings, engravings and ceramics.

The art work arrive from eminent museums of France - Musee National Picasso, Centre Georges Pompidou, Musee d'art Moderne de la ville de Paris, Musee de l'Orangerie, Paris, Musee Picasso, Antibes, Musee d' Arles, Musee de Grenoble, Saint-Etienne and Villeneuve d'Asq among others and from the private collections of two of his sons, Bernard and Claude Picasso.

The works will remain in India for a period of three months starting 14 December 2001 until 31 January 2002 at the National Museum New Delhi and at the Mumbai branch of the National Gallery of Modern Art, from 15 February 2001 till 31 March 2002.

The exhibition will be accompanied by numerous activities woven around the legendary artist - film screening, theatre, poetry recital, seminars and food festivals. Furthermore, there will be a photography exhibition of his life and times, even a selection of those taken by the artist.

The venue will have a souvenir shop with items such as T-shirts, mugs, pens, bookmarks, postcards, calendars, catalogues, fridge-magnets, with a printed signature of the artist. The cafe culture of Paris would be replicated with a Barista (Expresso Bar) in the Museum compound.

The NGMA has entered into a tie-up with indiatimes.com to facilitate online ticket booking for the exhibition. Information for the exhibition will also be available on a microsite that is being created specially for Picasso: Metamorphoses 1900 -1972. The site can be accessed at: <http://picasso.indiatimes.com>

Air India & The Arts

On 15th October, 1932 a Puss Moth took to the sky from Karachi for Bombay, via Ahmedabad. Piloting this fledgling flight was a young man, J. R. D. Tata, who pioneered civil aviation in India and founded the country's first airline. Today with over 50 years of international operations, Air-India continues its role, enhancing Indian prestige abroad.

It was essentially the ancient travel routes that linked civilisations. The enterprising trader, the curious traveller or the pious pilgrim, each by venturing beyond their known domain, sought the unknown. Thus there emerged and developed contact between distant cultures and civilisations.

A distinguished historian said, 'A civilisation was not an island unto itself. Its growth was dependent on a continuing interface with other civilisations. The most impressive civilisations were those which borrowed and lent their languages, technologies, artefacts and beliefs. Yet the end result was not an undifferentiated melange, for each was centred in its own needs and its own creative articulation.' (Dr. Romila Thapar)

Air-India sponsors cultural events for these reasons... that there may be interaction between cultures and civilisations, between languages and beliefs, between techniques and artefacts.

More than just the national airline, Air-India is also India's cultural ambassador to the world. The aircraft are a microcosm of India – the décor, the music, the crew uniforms, the cuisine - create an Indian ambience.

Air-India initiated the promotion of Indian art and culture world wide. Over the years, Air-India has established the largest corporate collection of contemporary and traditional art. These works are on display in Air-India's Booking Offices and Airport Lounges around the world. They serve as a constant reminder of the richness of tradition in India's heritage.

Paridhanika, 'that which is worn' is a Air-India collection of 65 costumes grouped in seven sections. Paridhanika displays contemporary and historical styles and drapes reflecting the diversity of Indian culture. Paridhanika is also an excellent collection of hand-woven fabrics, covered with intricate, complex embroidery and artistic jewellery, reflecting fashions of periods and regions.

The corporate policy to assist artists, craftsmen and performers, by sponsoring a variety of cultural activities of India – extends the horizons of not just the Visual, but also the Performing Arts. This policy has not only promoted Indian culture across the globe, but has also brought a variety of cultural activities to India.

In January 1997, Air-India brought the Padshahnama, an imperial Mughal manuscript, loaned by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II from The Royal Library, to India. Later that year, in October 1997, Air-India carried over 33 tonnes of exhibits from The British Museum between London and India. The President of India and Queen Elizabeth inaugurated The Enduring Image, at the National Museum, Delhi.

Air-India has carried the exhibits of Picasso; *Metamorphoses* 1900-1972 from the French Collections, between Delhi and Mumbai.

Picasso

METAMORPHOSES

1900-1972 FROM THE
FRENCH COLLECTIONS

EXHIBITS CARRIED DELHI-MUMBAI
ON



National Gallery of Modern Art,
C. J. Public Hall

15th February to 30th March, 2002

Born in 1881, in Malagala, Spain, to a painter and art teacher father, Don Jose Ruiz and an Andalusian mother of Arab lineage, the young Ruiz chose his mother's surname to become Pablo Picasso, whose perception transformed the world of Art.

In his Blue (1901-1904) and Rose (1904-1906) Periods, Picasso gradually graduated from melancholic undertones to anatomical studies of the female form and even harlequins. He also experimented with sculpture and printmaking.

1907 marked a dramatic change: Cubism. 'The evolution of cubist mannerisms in his art was an offshoot of the sensibilities he drew from African art.' He also made effective use of the disciplines of writing and photography in conceptualising space and palette.

From 1927, Picasso worked in three-dimensional freestanding art as a new medium. The 'Guitar Series' mark the Surrealism period. Realism and Surrealism are sometimes played simultaneously in the artist's oeuvre. In 1935, Picasso composed Surrealist poetry.

In 1937 he painted Guernica, in response to fascist repressions.

In 1944, Picasso joined the French Communist Party claiming that it was logical conclusion of his life's experiences. Picasso, reflecting on the violence of war through his artistic outpourings, ascended the social ladder. It irked him that his friends had died in the war, while he still lived.

That was his destiny; differently wrought : his gift to the world, and ours to have and understand.



For almost 70 years, Air-India has been a pioneer in promoting art and culture. It has been a corporate policy to assist artists, craftsmen and performers, by sponsoring their travel, extending the horizons of not just the Visual, but also the Performing Arts, worldwide. This is in keeping with Air-India's role as the national carrier.

More than an airline, Air-India is India's cultural ambassador to the world. The Air-India aircraft are a microcosm of India. The decor, the music, the crew uniforms, all blend to create an Indian ambience and atmosphere.

Over the years Air-India has established one of the largest corporate collections of contemporary and traditional art. These works are on display in Air-India's Booking Offices around the world. They serve as a constant reminder of the richness of tradition in India's heritage.

Mr. J. N. Gogoi
Managing Director, Air India Ltd.
and Mrs. Devika Gogoi
request the pleasure of the company of

Mrs. Meher Moos

to a special Air-India preview of
PICASSO; METAMORPHOSES 1900-1972
FROM THE FRENCH COLLECTIONS

on Wednesday, 13th February, 2002 at 5.00 p.m.
at the National Gallery of Modern Art,
C. J. Public Hall, Mumbai

RSVP

AIR-INDIA

Mrs. M. Fernandes

Tel. 202 4142 ext. 6705

National Dress/Lounge Suit



In January 1997, Air-India brought an imperial Mughal manuscript to India. H. M. Queen Elizabeth II loaned the *Padshahnama* from The Royal Library, at Windsor Castle. The first exhibition of the *Padshahnama* was held at the National Museum, New Delhi, as a part of the celebrations of 50 Years of Independent India.

Later that year, in October 1997, Air-India carried over 300 exhibits, totalling over 33 tonnes, from the British Museum, between London, Delhi and Mumbai.

The President of India and H. M. Queen Elizabeth II inaugurated The Enduring Image at the National Museum, Delhi.

Please carry this invitation to facilitate your car parking and entry. For security reasons briefcases and packages will not be allowed inside the gallery.

High tea will be served.