



Pablo Picasso
Poupée
 Paris, 1907
 Wood, brass pins, traces of oil paint and gesso, 23.5 x 5.5 x 5.5 cm
 Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
 © Photo: Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

This is the first in a planned series of exhibitions that focus on works in the Collection of the Museo Picasso Málaga, placing them in the context of Picasso's work and that of his contemporaries. The bronze *Small Figure* was made from a wooden original that he had carved in 1907, around the time he was working on his revolutionary painting *Les Femmes d'Alger*. Years later he recalled that a visit to the ethnographic collections at the Trocadéro in Paris, where he saw tribal masks and fetishes for the first time, had made a great impact on this work and had affected his approach to art as a whole at that time.

The appeal of tribal sculpture and other forms of "primitive" art, including children's art, was widespread among European artists by the 1920s. The direct use of materials and the stylizations of the imagery influenced

artists, who were searching for sources of inspiration that superseded old, academic systems of perspective and imitation.

Picasso's wood carvings of 1907 not only reflect his knowledge of non-Western objects but also his identification with artists such as Gauguin who found inspiration in unspoiled cultures. The exhibition features a carved wooden cylinder, *L'après-midi d'un Faune*, which was made by Gauguin as a tribute to the poet Stéphane Mallarmé. This rare object reveals the way in which the artist adapted exotic forms, such as the typically Marquesan figures contrasting the scampering fauns, to the archaic western subject of Mallarmé's poem.

In the case of the original *Small Figure*, metal pins were used for the eyes, as in African sculptures, and the



Paul Gauguin
L'après-midi d'un faune
 c. 1892
 Tamanu wood cylinder, 35.6 x 14.7 x 12.4 cm
 Collection Musée départemental Stéphane Mallarmé, Département de Seine-et-Marne
 © Cliché Yvan Bourhis, Direction des Archives, du Patrimoine et des Musées de Seine-et-Marne (France)

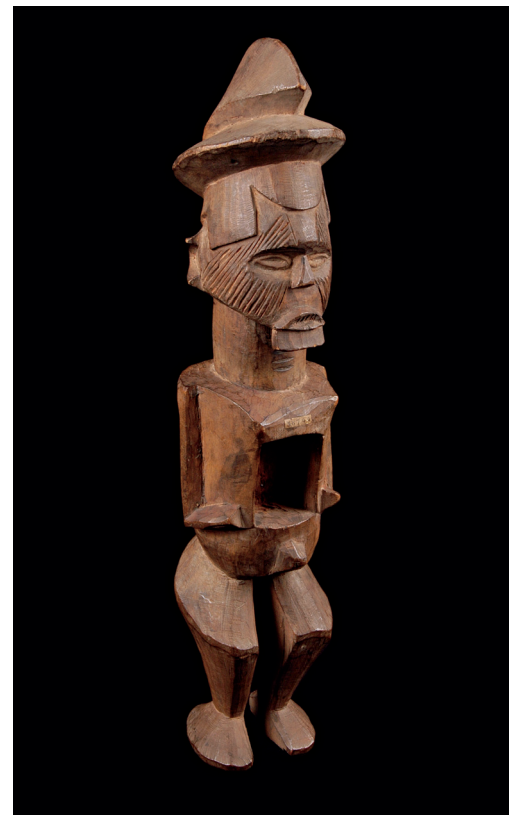


Figure
 Teke Culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 19th century
 Wood, 34 x 7.8 x 7.9 cm
 Musée du quai Branly, Paris
 © 2007. Musée du quai Branly/Scala, Florencia

roughly hewn wood was also painted. The emphasis on frontality and the close rendering of the figure's hands to the body, which reflects the shape of the piece of wood from which it was carved, are typical features of other sculptures in the exhibition, including the Teke *Figure* (Congo), which was acquired by the Trocadéro (Musée du quai Branly, Paris) in 1904. In its simplified form and size, *Small Figure* also displays striking affinities with wooden dolls from across cultures – from the Inuits of the Arctic region to the Asante from Ghana or the Hopi Indians of the American South-West. While all of them can be regarded, on the one hand, as playthings, these dolls were also made as fetishes given to children to protect them and bring them good fortune.

Small Figure was the only work from the series of wood carvings that Picasso made in 1907 to be cast, and it was the last sculpture cast during his lifetime. The transformation of the material from the rough wood carving to a smooth, hard figure in metal adds a dimension of permanence and formal presence to *Small Figure*, which allows us to see it as a late Picasso sculpture quite apart from the early context in which the wooden original was carved. The Museo Picasso Málaga's bronze is the first in an edition of twelve, each of which was finished with a different patina. This sculpture remained part of the artist's own collection until he died. *Small Figure* became part of the Museum's Collection in 1998 when it was donated by Christine Ruiz-Picasso.



Pablo Picasso
Small Figure
Paris, 1907 (cast in 1964)
Bronze, 23.5 x 5.5 x 5.5 cm
Museo Picasso Málaga
© Museo Picasso Málaga. Photo: Luis Asin

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm
Fridays to Saturdays, 10 am to 9 pm
Sundays and public holidays, 10 am to 8 pm
24 and 31 December, 10 am to 3 pm

Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January

ADMISSION FEES

Permanent collection: 6.00 euros.
Temporary exhibition: 4.50 euros.
Combined ticket: 8.00 euros.

Ticket sales cease 30 minutes before closing time

REDUCED FEES (50%)

Visitors over 65
Students under 26 with valid identification
Groups of more than 20 people (by appointment)

FREE ADMISSION

Youths aged 18 and younger (children 12 and younger accompanied by an adult)
Euro<26 Youth Card
ICOM members

Last Sunday of every month, free entrance from 3 pm

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Tickets may be bought in advance by calling (34) 902 360 295 or online at www.unicaja.es
Advance tickets are retrieved on the day of visit at the Museum's ticket desk, upon compulsory presentation of a credit card and a valid identity card or passport. The Museum and Unicaja decline any liability in the event of loss or theft of tickets. Tickets once bought may not be cancelled, replaced or refunded.

Guided tours, please contact:
educacion@mpicassom.org

Catalogue of the exhibition (Spanish-English) available at the MPM Bookstore. Orders: lalibreria@mpicassom.org

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