



22 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – secret Picasso kept in Te Papa

I refer to your OIA request of 14 August 2025:

I request to know where the secret Picasso is kept within Te Papa, how frequently the secret Picasso has been given care and maintenance, and whether the secret Picasso has ever been put on display in the Board Chair's private residence (and if so, on what dates).

Te Papa has seven works by Pablo Picasso in our collection: 6 works-on-paper, and 1 ceramic jug.

We are not aware of any work by Picasso in Te Papa's collection that could be described as 'secret.'

We have no record of any of them ever being displayed at the private residence of any Board Chair past or present.

Below is more information about these seven works, including information about any conservation treatment, whether they have been exhibited, and the link to the online catalogue records. Please note that for copyright reasons we are unable to have images of these works on our website.

Works by Pablo Picasso held by Te Papa

Ceramic jug

***Picador*, earthenware jug with painted and glazed decoration, 1952**

- Currently stored with the small sculpture collection at Te Papa.
- No record of conservation treatment.
- Exhibition: The jug was on display at Te Papa in Ngā Toi, March-September 2016.
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1474494>

Works-on-paper (all six are stored with our works-on-paper collection):

***La ronde de la jeunesse (The dance of youth)*, lithographic print, 1961**

- No record of conservation treatment
- No record of display
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/40196>

***Le modèle et deux personnages*, lithographic print, 1954**

- This print had conservation treatment in 1974, 1984 and 2014.
- It was on display at Te Papa in Ngā Toi, 2014-2015.
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/44587>

***La plongeuse (The diver)*, etching over collage, 1932**

- No record of conservation treatment.

- This work has been included in three exhibitions:
 - 'Face to Face: A Survey of Artists' Prints' (National Art Gallery, 10 Oct 1986 – 14 Dec 1986);
 - 'Journeys of the Heart, Travels of Frances Hodgkins' (Te Papa, 08 Aug 1999 – 09 Apr 2001);
 - 'Changing Impressions: Selected German and French Prints, 1885 – 1950' (Te Papa, 17 Aug 2010 – 21 Feb 2011).
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/37531>

Minotaure aveugle uide dans la Nuit par une petite Fille au Pigeon. From: 'La Suite Vollard', etching, 1934

- No record of conservation treatment.
- This print was displayed in the exhibition 'Curious Creatures & Marvellous Monsters' (Te Papa, 03 Aug 2018 – 02 Nov 2018).
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1498386>

Picador entrant dans l'Arène, linocut print, 1959

- No record of conservation treatment
- No record of display
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1498391>

Autoportrait sous trois formes: Peintre Couronné, Sculpteur en Buste et Minotaure amoureux, from: 'La Suite Vollard', etching, 1933

- No record of conservation treatment
- No record of display
- Online catalogue record: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1536457>

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Anna Berwick

Head of Governance and Strategy