

Picasso

Picasso and the Masters – a lecture on the Grand Palais, Louvre and Orsay exhibitions

(held 10 October 2008 to 2 February 2009)

Picasso had a prodigious visual memory and an extraordinary capacity to absorb other artists' images and use them to his own ends. His contemporaries considered him a "cannibal" of painting. This exhibition at the Grand Palais of 210 masterpieces by Picasso and older painters traces Picasso's relation with the great masters of European art: Greco, Velasques, Goya, Zurbarán, Poussin, Le Nain, Chardin, David, Ingres, Delacroix, Manet, Courbet, Lautrec, Degas, Cézanne, Renoir, Gauguin, Douanier Rousseau, Titian, Cranach, Rembrandt, Van Gogh. Simultaneously the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay are staging separate exhibitions confronting Delacroix's "Women of Algiers" and Manet's "Déjeuner sur l'herbe" to the multiple Picasso versions of the 1950's. Our lecture will bring together paintings from all three exhibitions and examine the stylistic and thematic influence of the masters on Picasso's art from his earliest work to the end of his career in the 1960's.

