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# **PICASSO *RICHMOND*** Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris

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February 19, 2011 – May 15, 2011

*Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris* was co-organized by Musée National Picasso and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.



The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

**Presenting Sponsor**



**Altria**

VMFA's presentation of this exhibition is made possible with additional support from James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin  
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# PICASSO

**Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris**

**Feb 19–May 15**

## **Exclusive East Coast Venue**

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see more than 170 works Picasso kept for his own collection—at its only East Coast venue!

Presenting Sponsor



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Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris was co-organized by Musée National Picasso, Paris and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Major Sponsors Dominion Resources, Frances M. Dulaney, James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Foundation, Pam and Bill Royall, and Clarice and Robert H. Smith. Official Airline Partner Delta Air Lines Media Partners NBC 12, Richmond Magazine, and Richmond Times-Dispatch.

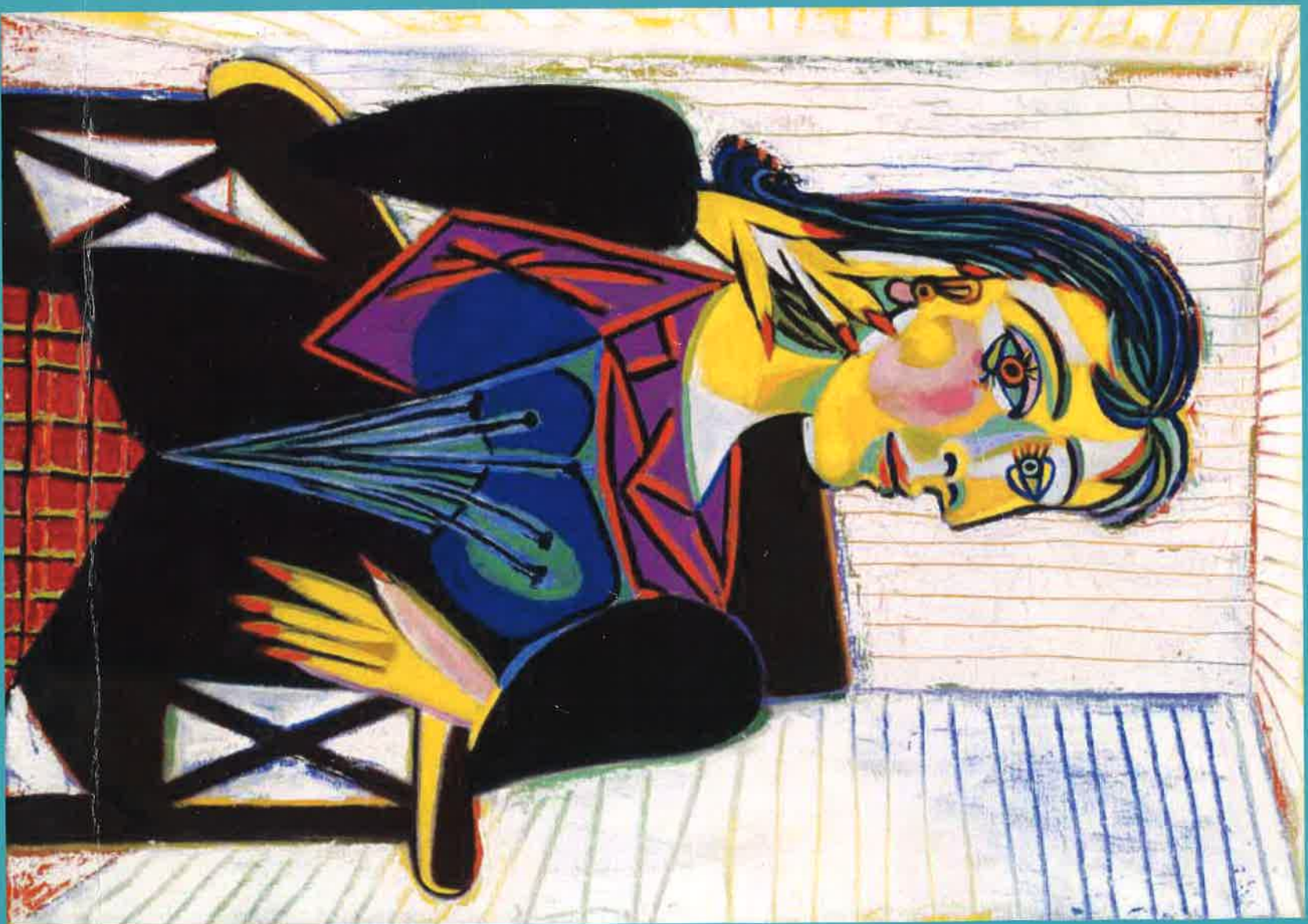
IMAGE Portrait of Dora Maar, 1937, Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881–1973), oil on canvas, 36 1/4 x 25 9/16 in. (92 x 65 cm), Musée National Picasso, Paris.  
© 2011 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY





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**Through May 15**

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Picasso kept for his own collection—at its only East Coast venue!

Tickets: 804.340.1405 or [www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum)

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# VMFA

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Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris was co-organized by the Musée National Picasso, Paris and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Major Sponsors: Dominion Resources, Mr. Francis M. Dalbey, James W. and Frances G. Nickladden Foundation, Frits and Gert Koral, and Charles and Robert H. Smith. Official Airline Partner: Delta Air Lines. Promotional Partners: Altria, NRC, 12, Richmond Magazine, and Richmond Times-Dispatch.

IMAGE: Portrait of Dora Maar, 1937, Pablo Picasso, Spanish, 1881-1973, oil on canvas, 56 1/4 x 25 9/16 in. (92 x 65 cm), Musée National Picasso, Paris, © 2011 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY







Altria Group is proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the most important exhibit in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' history: *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*.

"We are extremely pleased to be partnering with the VMFA to bring such a significant art exhibition to our Richmond headquarters community," said Nancy Brennan Lund, senior vice president of Marketing and a director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation.

Marty Barrington, vice chairman of Altria and VMFA trustee, observed, "With the Picasso exhibition, VMFA continues to realize its vision of world-class quality that will make Richmond a leading destination for fine art in the United States. Altria is pleased to support this exhibition, as well as other exhibitions through 2012-13, which will enrich our Richmond community in many ways."

Altria and its companies have partnered with VMFA for nearly 50 years, including supporting its recent expansion that transformed the Museum into a world-class facility. This support continues an Altria tradition of sponsoring major exhibits, bringing educational programs to patrons and contributing to campaigns that have made VMFA one of the nation's top art museums.

Altria and its companies believe that investing in leading arts and cultural organizations in its key communities helps create vibrant and engaging communities. Altria focuses much of its support on select major exhibition sponsorships that bring thought-provoking, world-class cultural experiences to its communities. And it champions organizations that inspire and reflect the qualities it values in its business operations – creativity, diversity, excellence and innovation.

A Fortune 500 company headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, Altria Group is the parent company of premier tobacco companies Philip Morris USA, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company, and John Middleton. Altria also owns Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, one of the country's top premium wine producers, and Philip Morris Capital Corporation, an investment company.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
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**Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris**

International exhibition features work from every phase of artist's celebrated career

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts proudly announces a landmark exhibition in honor of its 75th anniversary, *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*. VMFA is the only East Coast venue for the exhibition's seven-city international tour. The exhibition, which will be on view from February 19 through May 15, 2011, is co-organized by the Musée National Picasso, Paris and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Tickets are available now.

Drawn from the collection of the Musée National Picasso in Paris, the largest and most significant repository of the artist's work in the world, this exhibition represents works produced during every major artistic period of Pablo Picasso's eight-decade career. It includes 176 works from Picasso's personal collection – art that he kept for himself with the purpose of shaping his own legacy. Altria is the presenting sponsor for the exhibition.

"By bringing this major international exhibition to the Commonwealth," Governor of Virginia Bob McDonnell said, "the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is celebrating its 75th anniversary year in a significant way by presenting a remarkable gift to all Virginians and Americans. I encourage all our citizens and those outside the Commonwealth to come visit Virginia's museum and enjoy the Picasso exhibition. Virginia is a wonderful destination for so many experiences, including world-class art."

VMFA Director Alex Nyerges said, "This exhibition is without a doubt a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the American public. An exhibition this monumental is extremely rare, especially one that spans the entire career of a figure who many consider the most influential, innovative and creative artist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

In addition to showcasing some of Picasso's most outstanding works, the exhibition tells a compelling story about the development of the artist's career, his artistic inspirations, and his profound impact on modern art.

The unique opportunity to exhibit Picasso's work at this time is possible because the Musée Picasso National in Paris is closed for renovations until 2012, allowing for a global tour of this full-scale survey to travel for the first and possibly only time.

"We are extremely proud to be partnering with VMFA to bring such a significant art exhibition to our Richmond headquarters community," said Marty Barrington, vice chairman of Altria and VMFA trustee. "With the Picasso exhibition, VMFA continues to realize its vision of world-class quality



**Portrait of Dora Maar, 1937, Pablo Picasso**  
(Spanish, 1881–1973). Oil on canvas, 36¼ x 25 9/16 in. (92 x 65 cm). Musée National Picasso, Paris ©2010 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY

More

that will make Richmond a leading destination for fine art in the United States. Altria is pleased to support this exhibition, which will enrich our Richmond community in many ways.”

An exhibition sponsor’s preview will take place on February 16 to celebrate the arrival of Picasso’s work. An Opening Night Benefit is also scheduled for February 19.

#### About the Art

Renowned worldwide, the collection from the Musée National Picasso, Paris is unique because it represents the pieces that Picasso set aside for his own personal collection. Acting almost as a curator for his art, Picasso kept some of his most iconic pieces from each phase of his work, including the Blue Period, Rose Period, Cubism, the return to Classicism, Surrealism, and his later work.

The exhibition will showcase moments and art that defined Picasso’s early career, including a deathbed portrait of the artist’s close friend Carlos Casagemas. His friend’s suicide partially influenced Picasso’s famed Blue Period, defined by somber paintings in shades of blue and green. *Celéstina (The Woman with One-Eye)* (1904), a masterpiece from the Blue Period, will be featured in the exhibition.

Friends, lovers, and artists who influenced Picasso play a seminal role in the exhibition. Portraits of his mistresses, such as *Reading* (1932) and *Portrait of Dora Maar* (1937), feature his muses in various emotional states ranging from regal composure to inconsolable despair. Works ranging from studies for his early groundbreaking *Les Femmes d’Alger (O. J.)* (1907), to some of the last works of his career show his connection to, and often competition with, other notable artists from his past and present such as Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Paul Cézanne, and Diego Velázquez. The exhibition includes examples of almost every medium in which Picasso worked —oil on canvas and panel, cast bronze, carved wood, assemblages of found materials, watercolors, drawings in pastel, charcoal, pencil, and ink; various printmaking techniques, and illustrated books.



Reading, 1932  
© Musée National Picasso, Paris

While Picasso contributed to and even inspired countless movements, he and Braques co-invented an entirely new movement: Cubism. Focused on fragmentation, shifting planes, and skewed perspectives, Cubism revolved around the deconstruction and reconstruction of figures and objects on two-dimensional surfaces or in space with new materials. The exhibition includes classical examples of Analytic Cubism, such as the famous Parisian landmark *Le Sacré-Coeur* (1909-1910), and several paintings of figures with musical instruments where the subjects are torqued and faceted almost beyond recognition.

#### About the Artist

Born in the southern Spanish city of Málaga in 1881, Pablo Picasso’s towering reputation spanned a long and productive career that began at a young age. After studying art in Barcelona—where he entered the School of Fine Arts at age thirteen—and Madrid, he first traveled to Paris in 1900, the city whose art and culture would greatly influence him and where he would first make his mark.



By the time of his death in 1973 he had created an astounding 50,000 works in many different artistic mediums.

Picasso frequently shifted from one stylistic mode to another, moving through various forms of expression to match his protean vision and resist being constrained by any single style or movement. His exploration of different theories and techniques led to art that was inspired by Classicism, Surrealism, and African art, among other sources.

Involved in almost every artistic movement during his lifetime, he is recognized as one of the most powerful and creative forces of the 20th century. Never one to rest on his laurels, Picasso was constantly reinventing himself and searching for new sources of inspiration, both from the modern age and from the work of past artists and artworks. This exhibition offers an unprecedented opportunity to understand the depth and breadth of Picasso's genius. His revolutionary artistic achievements brought him universal praise and fame, and his art continues to inspire viewers as well as artists in a range of creative fields.

#### **About the Exhibition**

- TITLE: Picasso: Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso, Paris
- ORGANIZER: Musée National Picasso, Paris
- DATES: Feb. 19, 2011 – May 15, 2011. VMFA is open seven days a week.
- CURATOR: Anne Baldassari, Chairman, Musée National Picasso, Paris
- ITINERARY: Athenaeum Art Museum, Helsinki; Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow; State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg; Seattle Art Museum; VMFA, Fine Art Museums of San Francisco. One additional non-US venue is yet to be announced.
- NUMBER OF WORKS: 176
- ADMISSION: \$20; Admission is free for VMFA members and children ages 6 and under. Discounts are available at \$16 for seniors 65+, students with ID, groups 10+, and ages 7–17.
- CATALOG: Full color, 272 pp, 193 illustrations
- PRESENTING SPONSOR: Altria Group
- PACKAGES: [www.VisitRichmondVA.com/Picasso](http://www.VisitRichmondVA.com/Picasso)
- VIDEO: [www.VMFA.museum/picasso](http://www.VMFA.museum/picasso)

#### **About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

With a collection of art that spans the globe and more than 5,000 years, plus a wide array of special exhibitions, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is recognized as one of the top comprehensive art museums in the United States. The museum's permanent collection encompasses more than 22,000 works of art, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside Russia and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is home to acclaimed collections of English Silver and Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British Sporting and Contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its then 74-year history. Programs include educational activities and studio classes for all ages, plus fun after-hours events. VMFA's Statewide Partnership program includes traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. General admission is always free and the museum is open 365 days a year. For additional information, telephone 804.340.1400 or visit [www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum).



#### DIRECTIONS

I-95 exit 78, proceed 1.5 miles to 200 N. Boulevard, on the right between Kensington and Grove avenues



#### VMFA PARKING DECK

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Free with VMFA membership card

#### Presenting Sponsor



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ARTWORK by Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881–1973), Musée National Picasso, Paris.  
© 2011 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photos: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY. COVER *Portrait of Dora Maar*, Paris, 1937, oil on canvas, 36 1/4 x 25 1/2 in. (92 x 65 cm). INSIDE *Portrait of Olga in an Armchair*, Montrouge, 1918, oil on canvas, 51 1/4 x 35 in. (130 x 88.8 cm)  
ABOVE Architectural Photography by Bilyana Dimitrova.  
BROCHURE © 2011 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Feb(5760-140)



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