

childhood and youth before becoming a famed artist is set in perspective with photos, maps, popular objects and documentary material that shows us what the city was like in the changeover between two centuries as it strove after a longed-for and difficult modernisation. This is where the young boy lived and painted his family members and where other artists also worked, like José Denis Belgrano, Antonio Muñoz Degrain, or his own father, José Ruiz Blasco, of whom a selection of paintings is also on exhibit.

*Picasso of Malaga. Earliest Works* wishes to convey an idea of the iconographic resonance that these early creative experiences might have had on some works from Picasso's maturity. Art serves as an excuse to rethink exactly what mark Malaga and its people left on his memory.

Organised in conjunction with the Museu Picasso de Barcelona, the show is further enriched thanks to private collectors from Malaga, Museo del Prado, Museo de Málaga, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Fundación Pablo Ruiz Picasso-Museo Casa Natal, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal and various international museums and private collections.

*Picasso of Malaga. Earliest Works* is the first of three exhibitions conceived to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of Museo Picasso Málaga.



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)  
*Three Doves*, 1960  
Oil on canvas, 49.5 x 107.5 cm  
Museo Picasso Málaga

#### OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm  
Friday to Saturday, 10 am to 9 pm  
Sunday and public holidays, 10 am to 8 pm  
24 and 31 December, 10 am to 3 pm  
Closed on Monday, 25 December and 1 January

#### ADMISSION FEES

Permanent collection: 6 euros  
Temporary exhibition: 4.5 euros  
Combined ticket: 9 euros  
Ticket sales cease 30 minutes before closing time

#### REDUCED FEES (50 %)

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

#### FREE ADMISSION

Unemployed registered at SEPE  
Youths aged 18 and younger children (under 13 accompanied by an adult)  
Holders of EURO<  
Students of the Universidad de Málaga with valid identification  
ICOM members  
On Sundays between 6 pm and 8 pm  
October 27th, Anniversary of the Museo Picasso Málaga

#### ADVANCED TICKET SALES

Tickets may be bought in advance by calling (34) 902 360 295 or online at [www.uniticket.es](http://www.uniticket.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 visits to the exhibition *Picasso of Málaga. Earliest Works* in Spanish. Thursday at 6 pm. For other guided visits, please contact: [educacion@mpicassom.org](mailto:educacion@mpicassom.org)

Palacio de Buenavista  
C/ San Agustín, 8. 29015 Málaga  
General Information: (34) 902 44 33 77 / Switchboard: (34) 952 12 76 00  
[info@mpicassom.org](mailto:info@mpicassom.org) / [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org)

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#### Cover (detail):

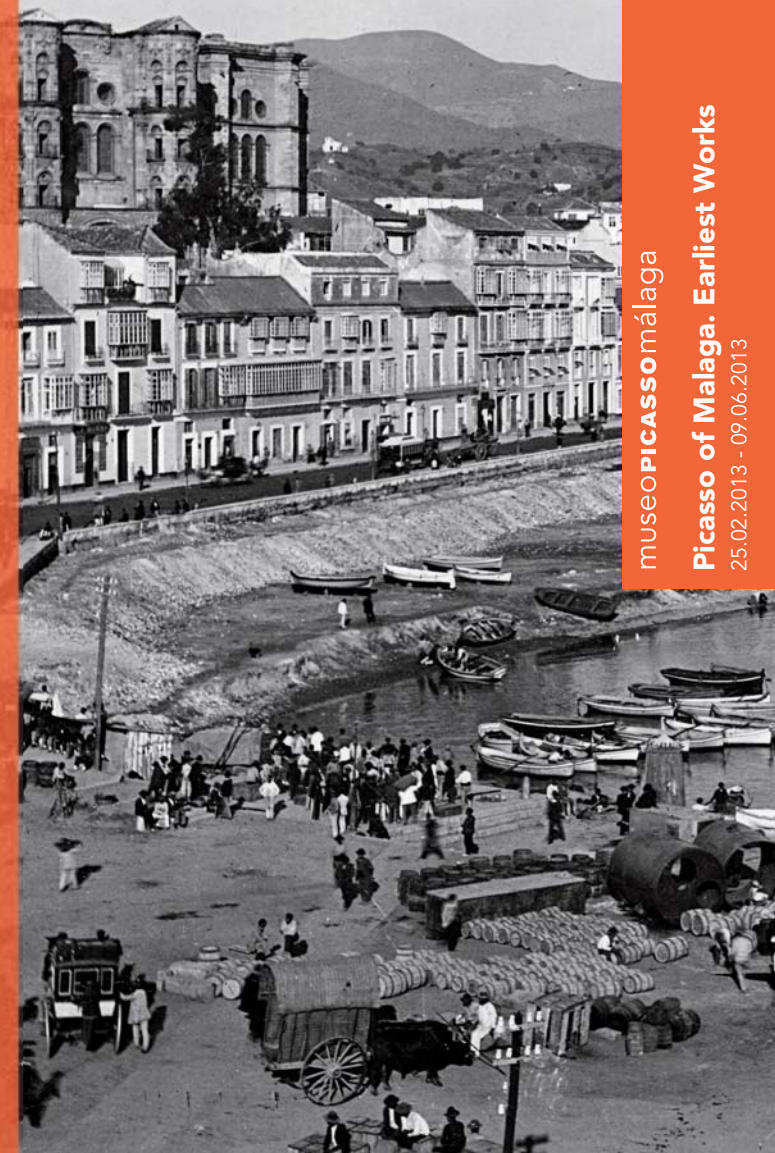
**Ruiz del Portal (¿?)**  
*Cortina del Muelle and Port*, early Nineteenth Century  
Black and White Photograph, 12.5 x 17 cm  
Diputación de Málaga. Biblioteca Cánovas del Castillo. Legado Temborry

EXHIBITION ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MUSEU PICASSO DE BARCELONA

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**Picasso of Malaga. Earliest Works**

25.02.2013 - 09.06.2013



**Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)**  
*Couple in an Andalusian Courtyard, 1899*  
 Oil on canvas, 36 x 49 cm  
 Museu Picasso, Barcelona. Donation of Pablo Picasso, 1970

*Picasso of Malaga. Earliest Works* at Museo Picasso Málaga evokes the earliest period of the artist from Malaga: precocious works alongside pictures by related painters are contextualised with a plethora of documentary material recreating the family life, the cultural backdrop and urban environment of the city where Pablo Picasso was born on 25 October 1881.

It offers insights into the themes that aroused an interest in representing the world on paper and in painting of a young budding artist who visited his hometown for the last time in 1901 unaware that he would never return. At the time the city was recovering from an earthquake, facing up to a profound agricultural crisis caused by the phylloxera plague and undertaking plans for urban growth that would expand the city to the coastline.

According to the tourist guides from the 1880s Malaga was "God's Paradise on Earth". Poetically described as a "rival to the stars", it was believed to be a chosen place, the "pearl" and the "sultana" of the Mediterranean. Its name comes from the Greek *malakos*, meaning soft or tempered. Bathed in sunlight and with a spring that lasts the whole year long, its climate was beyond compare. Flowers bloomed and orchards bore their fruit, though at once a large part of the population had no access to health services and education or a balanced



**Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)**  
*Marina with Houses in the Foreground, June-July 1896*  
 Oil on canvas, 57 x 101 cm  
 Museu Picasso, Barcelona. Donation of Pablo Picasso, 1970

diet. In the mid nineteenth century, prosperous *malagueños*, the benevolent owners of this land, lived in peace while the poor, as was true for so many cities across the whole of Europe in the late nineteenth century, were viewed as an inevitable and consubstantial element in the order of things.

Even after industrialisation, with the advent of the foundry, the railway and the telegraph, its economy was still largely dependent on the bounties of nature: especially on the vine, for its grapes, raisins and, naturally, wine. In 1884 the city exported 250,000 quintals of raisins and 200,000 quintals of wine to the farthest-flung places on earth. Yet only one third of children between the ages of seven and ten went to school and the weekly hours for a factory worker was seventy.

At the end of the nineteenth century nature also reared its ugly head in Malaga, unleashing the whimsical force of its unrelenting power. Over a brief period of time, covering the early years of Picasso's life, the city was hit by a number of natural disasters. Obviously kept apart from these tensions and protected by a large extended family, the young boy took his first artistic steps at an early age under the tutelage of his father, José Ruiz Blasco, a teacher and a painter. The work of the artist at the time basically consists of learning exercises, portraits of friends and family, small still-life paintings,



**Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)**  
*Old Fisherman, 1895*  
 Oil on canvas, 83 x 62.5 cm  
 Museo de Montserrat. Donation Josep Sala Ardiz

landscapes and depictions of street scenes and popular customs: bullfighting, flamenco dancing, fishmongers or people out for a stroll on the local avenues. On the other hand, he made early copies of sunrises in the port, depictions of doves or themes borrowed from history painting. Taken together they give an account of his early concerns and his interest in observing and representing friends and family as well as anonymous models.

These are years far away from the art capitals like London, Paris or even Barcelona. In the backwater of Malaga it was hard to imagine that this apprentice painter, and then bright young man who returned on vacation, would change the course of art in the twentieth century.

Local artists, themes and aesthetics set the taste of the painterly cultural scene in Malaga of the art-consuming bourgeoisie. The taste had been gradually forged since the mid nineteenth century and was definitively confirmed in the final third. The artistic culture of Malaga which provided the initial framework for the formation of Picasso's vocation, was built from the 1840s onwards coinciding with the process of industrial and economic reconversion the city underwent in that decade. The exhibition of this noteworthy group of works from Pablo Ruiz Picasso's