

■BABOON & YOUNG



Baboon & Young aka Monkey with her Baby 1951

Medium: Sculpture/Bronze 21 ½ “131/8 “ x 24 “

Artist: Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

55.45 G376

ELEMENTS FOR TOUR: Modern Art; Recycling & Found Objects; French Sculpture & Painting; Animals in Art; Mother & Child; useful for adults & children-playful, cheeky, this object prompts recognition of different elements newly used and incorporated into an art object.

SCULPTURE: In this sculpture, Picasso brings us & any tour to his creativity, his wit, tenderness & understanding of animals & gives us a concrete three dimensional object embodying motherhood, its protectiveness and caring. This bronze sculpture is an assemblage, a kind of 3D collage of found objects.

The standing monkey comes to us from bits and pieces of detritus: her head- two toy cars bottom to bottom, her eyes- roller bearings or large marbles, her body a storage jar &, I am guessing here, her ears-the handles from that jug. Her spine & tail, well extended, are an old automobile spring. The balance of the sculpture was modeled from clay and then cast in bronze. The infant young has a roller bearing head w/body also modeled from clay.

Picasso's artful genius & creativity is well expressed in an essay from serdar-hizli-artcom/picasso:

In each case (e.g.Crane, She Goat, Baboon w/Young) the primary aspect of the artist's achievement lies in his ability to discover the sculptural possibilities in everyday objects, to the amazement of every beholder..

Picasso's sculptural work in 1951 was at the cutting edge of creative use of found objects: an artist taking various discarded objects which he may have just stumbled on and creating some new object from them. Picasso could recognize a new use, a new look from some piece of steel or a child's toy. During this same period he created La Grue (The Crane) with a body from a shovel, the head from a faucet & its feet from metal forks-he splayed the tines apart to stabilize the sculpture. All these sculptures are playful and give us a look at a happy artist: his daughter Paloma was born in 1949 and her brother Claude soon after..

This object is one of five cast in 1951 @ Vallauris, Picasso's then home & studio.

Side note on the popularity of this work-Baboon with Young: NYT report of 11/7/2002:

Picasso's "Monkey & Her Child," a somewhat comical, somewhat grotesque bronze baboon hugging her baby that Picasso conceived in 1951 and cast in bronze soon after, became an object of desire for three tenacious bidders. Estimated at \$5 million to \$7 million, it sold to a telephone bidder described only as an American private collector for \$6.7 million, a record for a Picasso sculpture.

NB: If anyone asks, you can give a round estimate of fair market value for this art object.

ARTIST: Pablo Picasso was an artistic genius, creative and vital throughout his lifetime in art.

Staying with the topic of figural animal sculpture, he was a great animal lover and surrounded himself with pets for his entire life. He incorporated animals in his work almost from the beginning: in his Rose period ca 1905, he painted Family of Acrobats w/Monkey. He also included serene horses in sketches and paintings in this period.

In the 1930's he was distraught over the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. He used animals to reflect the terror and oncoming horrors of war. In his Guernica the screaming horse in the foreground.

I hardly need to detail his life: the best work I found was Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) in the Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, metmuseum.org. This essay outlines his work by category and lets you click on several of his many works owned by the Met. The most useful piece on his sculpture was 'Animals Real & Imagined' in the website of the Museum of Modern Art.

HIS QUOTES FOR TOURS:

Sculpture is the art of the intelligence.

Sculpture is the best comment an artist can make on painting.

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.

Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the sun.

The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place: from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web.

The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.

Are we to paint what's on the face, what's inside the face, or what's behind it?

Bad artists copy, Good artists steal.

SOURCES:

Artsconnected.org

Metmuseum.org

Serder-hizli-art.com/picasso

Picasso.fr/blog (This is the website of the Picasso Foundation: some English essays; primarily French)

Brainy Quote (four pages of Picasso's apothegms & epigrams; quite good)

Wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_Picasso. See also [List of Picasso Artworks 1951-1960](#)