

AUTHENTICATION OF ARTWORKS

(Due Diligence)

Prepared for

Doina Voskerician

Bucharest, Romania

By

(Mr) Gayle B. Tate

G. B. Tate & Sons Fine Art



SUBJECT ARTWORK

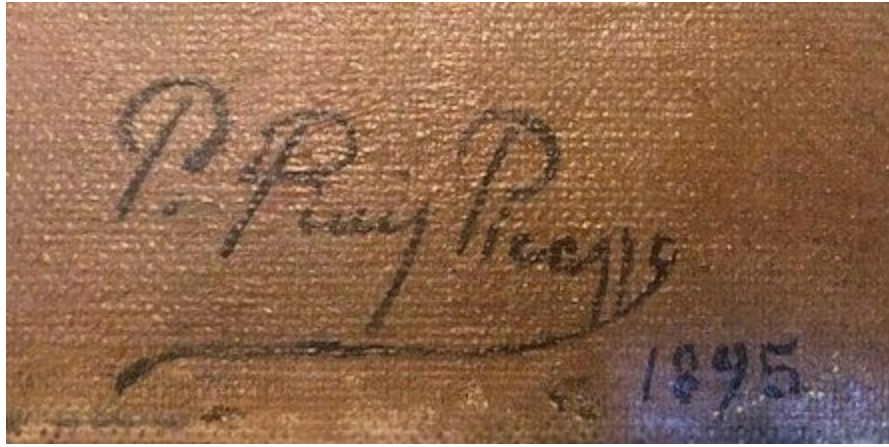
Pablo Picasso

(Pablo Ruíz y Picasso, Spanish, 1881 – 1973)

"The Mountains of Cartagena", 1895

Oil on canvas, 40 X 48 cm (16 X 19 Inches)

Signed "P. Ruiz Picasso" and Dated "1895" lower right



Subject Artwork – Signature and Date



Subject Artwork – Verso

HISTORY AND PROVENANCE NOTES

1. In addition to our own research and findings from independent resources, this document is written using facts, images and information discovered during our own research and investigation, with input from written resources, trusted business associates, authorities in the appropriate areas and family members of the owner of the artworks.

2. The Subject Artwork is an oil painting, executed in the typical style and fashion of the early work of Pablo Picasso. This evaluation of the Subject Artwork is made primarily from comparisons made to similar works sold through the public venues and private sales, most notably by recognized art collectors, dealers and galleries of the United States and Europe. In addition, substantiation of our conclusions is supported by a convincing and compelling provenance and history, and various professional texts and documents, written by authorities on the artist's work.

3. The background of the Subject Artwork has been researched and the history cross referenced with other facts surrounding the provenance provided by the family of the current owner. It has also been compared with other works by Picasso found through recognized art galleries, auction houses and dealers, both in Europe and the United States. Extensive discussions with art dealers and experienced associates were held to determine if this documentation is sufficient for serious consideration in the marketplace.

4. The provenance and history of the Subject Artwork are the most compelling evidence for establishing authorship, and have been established and verified through family history and associated world events of the time.

PROVENANCE

The artist, Pablo Picasso, executed 1895, thence:

1902 - Acquired by Romanian businessman and art collector Niculae Teodorescu (1872-1948) between 1901-1905 from art dealer, Ambroise Vollard, Paris for approximately 1,000 Francs.

By descent to Gheorge Teodorescu (1905-1986), attorney in Bucharest, son of Niculae Teodorescu, and father of Attestor, Doina Teodorescu (nee Voskerician).

By descent to Doina Voskerician, Attestor, graduate of the University of Bucharest in Mathematics and Physics, and retired physics teacher at the Bucharest School of Economic and Administrative Law No.1 (currently named Virgil Madgearu), the only child of Gheorghe Teodorescu. Married in 1968, taking the surname, Doina Voskerician, from her husband.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

regarding provenance and history, from Doina Voskerician, Attestor:

1901-1905 - Niculae Teodorescu meets Ambroise Vollard on a buying trip across France, ending in Paris. Niculae purchased two paintings from Vollard, the Subject Artwork and a

painting by Pierre Auguste Renoir. (The Renoir was subsequently sold by Niculae, circa 1940).

1977 - Grigore Voskerician (1936-1980), husband of attestor, took the Subject Artwork to Paris just before emigrating to Germany in 1980. In March 1977, there was a massive earthquake in Bucharest, and half the city was in ruins. Grigore was afraid that, during inspections of buildings for structural damage, that the painting would be found, which would mean prison for him, and confiscation of their artwork, therefore he took it out of the country during a business trip mid 1977.

1977-1978 - Grigore Voskerician took the Subject Artwork to Galerie Marten, Paris for evaluation and to sell. Not finding a buyer, he brought it back to Bucharest in early 1978, and hid it among the rafters in the basement of their condominium in Bucharest in 1978. Grigore fell ill and died in October 1980.

At Galerie Marten, Martin Fabiani authenticated the Subject Artwork as by the hand of Pablo Picasso, and placed the documentation on the stretcher of the painting in the form of labels overstamped with the gallery seal and Fabiani's signature "Martin". Martin Fabiani, 26 Ave Matignon, Paris. was friend and protege of Ambrose Vollard, who named him an executor of the estate.



1979-1980 - Various postcards and greeting cards were sent by Vollard to Niculae Teodorescu prior to 1940. The only remaining card extant is this, a 1917 portrait of Vollard by P. A. Renoir:



THE IMPACT OF WARS AND GOVERNMENT

6. The effects of World War II and the establishment of the communist government thereafter cannot be overstated as to how the occupying forces bore their mark on everyday life in Romania. The forces created a terrorist level oversight of the people. The confiscation of homes, property and anything of value was far reaching. Those who were found hiding or removing property from either the government or the country itself were put in fear of their lives. Such underground activity was met with severe punishment or even death. Cooperation or help in these activities was similarly punished. Therefore it is no small matter that the Subject Artwork was kept secret from the governing forces and made their way to their current location in the United States.

This is the account of Doina Voskerician, her testimony verbatim, of the events surrounding the Picasso sculptures during this time:

"Around Summer 1940's when Nazi invasion took place in Romania and was a lot of looting, arrests and art confiscated by Nazis. My grandfather Nicloae Teodorescu decided to move the entire Teodorescu collection from their primary residence (Cotroceni neighborhood) in the center of Bucharest (capital of Romania) to the village farm house in Bragadiru (near Bucharest), and placed artworks inside their garage area, an underground hidden basement vault where they also had a working bench on top of it and several automobiles and a place where the hired maintenance (servants) people would work on Niculae Teodorescu house and automobiles. In 1947-1948 communist came to power and

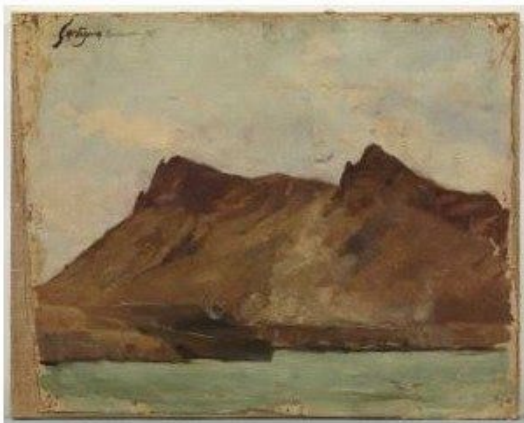
searching all rich family residences and confiscated art, jewelry and paintings and homes from Romanian citizens and police were demanding them to sign a full inventory of their assets since he was registered as a participating and known art collector in Romania. Around 1947, to protect his family in case the artworks were discovered, not to get arrested by the government, Niculae Teodorescu was afraid that he will lose his collection and did not want the government to find and connect him to the art collection which they knew he was holding several pieces since other Romanian collectors testified to the fact that they saw them at his house in Cotroceni, Bucharest neighborhood. Since Communist Government could not find any art in Niculae Teodorescu possession in September 1948 the communist government confiscated Niculae Teodorescu house in Bucharest (making the property of the government and give it to a high ranking politician, Ion Gheorghe Maurer which later became prime minister of Romania in 1958) and I was also walked out of the house with my parents Gheorghe and Ecaterina Teodorescu as I was 8 years old. Communist government were overthrown in December 1989.

Gheorghe Teodorescu (son of Niculae Teodorescu) on his deathbed in 1986 wanted to enjoy his father's art collection after over thirty years being buried and not talked about it because of the communists. Romanian collectors that turned each other in to the communist government pressure in 1947-1960 did it either to protect their families that were put in jail or to allow them to keep some of their art collection pieces in exchange for ensuring other art collectors are turned in and government will take their collections which filled the houses of the high ranking communist politicians and dictator. After December 1989 Romanian revolution in 1991-1992, I tried to get back my grandfather's house/property (Located in Cotroceni neighborhood) which was confiscated in 1949 by communist government back from the government and unfortunately the "old communist politicians" even today they have influence over judges and was not possible. My son left to US on March 25th 1991 taking the entire Teodorescu collection with him. On that day, when my son arrived in New York I felt for the first time that, Picasso is finally free. It took two generations (50 years) for light to shine again on Picasso's art"

7. The condition of the Subject artwork is generally deteriorated overall, as a result of neglect while being hidden from the communist government. Its age and condition can be seen in the photographs above. The darkening of the canvas, seen on the verso, is typical of many such paintings with such a history. The condition should have a modest negative effect on the value of the Subject Artwork.

COMPARABLE PAINTINGS

The Subject Artwork compares favorably with other works of the year 1895 in subject matter and style of painting. Of particular note is the similar degree of finish, as well as the overall condition of many of the paintings found, most of which are in poor condition and obviously studies, being unfinished. Also of note is the pallet used in all these painting: mainly of earth colors of umbers, siennas, ochers and black. These are very typical of Picasso's work throughout his lifetime, but especially the early years, before 1905, when he began to explore modestly brighter pigments.



Details

Title: **Le montagne de Cartagena**
Location: Cartagena
Date: September/1895
Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimension: 28 x 34,7 cm
Collection: Museu Picasso, Barcelona. Donation 1970
Catalogs: **OPP.95:046**; C:77; MPB:110.074; P.I:105; PP:95:085
Books: TO.94*:14
Exhibited: TO.94*:14



Details

Title: **Paysage**
Location: Barcelona
Date: 1895~1896
Medium: Oil on paper
Dimension: 12,7 x 17,9 cm
Collection: Museu Picasso, Barcelona. Donation 1970
Catalogs: **OPP.95:234**; C:323; MPB:110.113; PP.9596:002

CONCLUSIONS

**The Subject Artwork is an original painting by the hand of Pablo Picasso
The signature is by the hand of Pablo Picasso**

The history of the Subject Artwork is supported by an obviously close relationship between the art dealers and the Teodorescu family. The events and dates have been carefully reconciled with the history and documents submitted during the due diligence for the Teodorescu collection. The consummate results from the investigations, including evidence and testimonies, support the credibility of the history and provenance of the Subject Artwork, and is compelling for authorship. The exhibition information, combined with family provenance and circumstances and their place in history, all point to authorship by Pablo Picasso. All other factors, including technique, imagery and style as well as the signature,, are consistent with original works by the artist. The Subject Artwork is typical of the artist during the very early time period, and compares favorably in quality and subject matter with the best examples of his work found in the marketplace.

Considered as a whole, this is proper due diligence for the Subject Artwork, and is sufficient to draw the conclusions of authenticity and value.

CERTIFICATION

This document is submitted for Doina Voskerician. The results are based on our own research and experience, as well as that of other recognized authoritative resources, and includes information submitted to us by Mrs. Voskerician and her representatives.

I certify that the information contained in this document has been thoroughly researched and is a true, accurate and complete record of our findings. A copy of this report is retained at our offices.

Respectfully submitted on this day,
September 23 2020



(Mr) Gayle B. Tate

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ABOUT G. B. TATE & SONS FINE ART

G. B. Tate & Sons has served the art community continuously since its founding in 1967 by its still current owner and president, Mr. Gayle B. Tate. It was founded under the name Tate Gallery in Tallahassee, Florida, and subsequently served in Tampa, Florida and Asheville, North Carolina. Since his retirement in 2019, the offices of G. B. Tate & Sons are located at Fountain Inn, South Carolina.

Mr. Tate (born 1944) has acted as an art dealer, gallery owner and appraiser since 1967. He is the author of three privately published books on topics in the art field, including art investments and the dynamics of the art market. Other discourses have been on the prevention and recovery of fakes, fraud and theft in fine art.

Mr. Tate served for five years in the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer during the VietNam war, being discharged honorably with the rank of Captain in 1972.

Mr. Tate is a founding member and past president of the Southeast Professional Art Dealers Association, Tampa, Florida. Certified for the authentications and appraisals of artworks under the auspices of SPADA since 1980 (certification no. FM-80-12003).

Mr. Tate is a founding member and past president of "The Seven", Alliance of Artists, Asheville, North Carolina, 1992 - 2000

Mr. Tate has worked for insurance companies throughout the United States... from 1976-82, on two different occasions, Mr. Tate worked with the private sector, insurance companies and the FBI to uncover rings of fraudulent operations working in central Florida. Through research and investigations of claims made by criminal vendors of works of art, he was able to discover their purposes to create and market fake works of art. In both occasions, the criminals involved were tried and convicted of fraud charges and subsequently sentenced to prison terms. On other occasions, thieves were brought to trial and sentenced to prison terms.

Mr. Tate is now retired from art gallery operations and management. He continues to work privately at his offices in Fountain Inn, South Carolina.

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