

Basic Detail Report

Title

Quicksand (Sable mouvant)

Artist

Pablo Picasso, Louis Broder, Paris, 1966, aquatints: l'Atelier Crommelynck, [Paris]; text: Fequet et Baudier, [Paris], Pierre Reverdy

Date

1966

Dimensions

Slipcase: H: 20 5/16 in. (516 mm); W: 16 7/16 in. (417 mm); Depth: 2 3/4 in. (70 mm). Chemise: H: 19 13/16 in. (503 mm); W: 16 5/16 in. (414 mm); Depth: 2 1/2 in. (64 mm). Cover: H: 19 7/16 in. (494 mm); W: 15 11/16 in. (398 mm); Depth: 2 in. (51 mm). Page: H: 18 15/16 in. (481 mm); W: 15 in. (381 mm).

Medium

Original prints: 10 aquatints (some worked with drypoint and scraper). Text: letterpress. Paper: Rives white wove paper, watermarked "L.B."

Classifications

Books

Credit Line

Gift of Molly and Walter Bareiss in honor of Barbara K. Sutherland

Object number

1984.941

Published References

cf. Goeppert, Sebastian, et al., *Pablo Picasso: The Illustrated Books, Catalogue raisonné*, Geneva, 1983, no. 136

cf. Johnson, Robert Flynn, *Artists' Books in the Modern Era 1870--2000: The Reva and David Logan Collection of Illustrated Books*, San Francisco, 2001, no. 88.

Exhibition History

Toledo Museum of Art, *Picasso as an Illustrator*, Jan. 23 - May 29, 1988, no. 58

Toledo Museum of Art, *Splendid Pages: The Molly and Walter Bareiss Collection of Modern Illustrated Books*, Feb. 14--May 11, 2003.

Collections

Works on Paper

Label Text

Pablo Picasso, Sable mouvant (Quick Sand). Text by Pierre Reverdy (1966) Je suis sorti du port I left the port Par un étroit passage Through the narrow passage Et je rentre à la mort And at death I return démunie de baggage. stripped of my belongings. Sable mouvant, Pierre Reverdy's last poem, explores the highs

and lows of the process of writing. It is the poet's quiet summation of an artistic life. Reverdy converted to Catholicism in 1926. He spent the rest of his life in relative seclusion near a Benedictine monastery, dividing his time between poetry and religion. When he died in 1960, only three friends were contacted: Georges Braque, the publisher Efstiratos Tériade, and Pablo Picasso. Picasso agreed to illustrate this posthumous edition of Reverdy's final work as a tribute to his friend. In his selection of images, he seems to be looking at his own artistic life. His prints mirror the theme of artistic process—most show an artist at work in his studio. The aquatints show the delicate gradations of tone that the technique is capable of when expressed by an artist as talented as Picasso. The impact of these compelling prints builds with each successive image. Their cumulative effect balances the power of the text. 203 words

Not On View