

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

Woman with a Crow

Artist

Pablo Picasso

Date

1904

Dimensions

painting: 25 1/2 x 19 1/2 in. (64.8 x 49.5 cm) framed: 34 1/2 x 28 x 2 3/4 in. (87.6 x 71.1 x 7 cm)

Medium

charcoal, watercolor, and gouache on paper, mounted on pressboard

Classifications

Drawings

Credit Line

Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey

Object number

1936.4

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Exhibition History

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Comparative References

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Collections

Works on Paper

Label Text

Painted the year Pablo Picasso moved from his native Spain to Paris, *Woman with a Crow* is a portrait of “Margot” Luc, the stepdaughter of the owner of a Montmartre café Picasso frequented. During these early years in Paris, Picasso was merely an undiscovered artist in his 20s, and he and his fellow Montmartre compatriots lived in poverty. Like other paintings of Picasso’s Blue Period—so called for their morose tone and the prevalence of the color blue in the works—*Woman with a Crow* portrays a downtrodden figure with an unhealthy pallor. The blue pastel background applied after the drawing further emphasizes the stony whiteness of the skin. Even though the crow was Margot’s domesticated pet, its symbolic associations with death overshadow the affectionate relationship. With unnaturally elongated fingers, Margot gently strokes her pet as she leans forward to kiss the bird’s head. Her closed eyes and gaunt face strengthen the implied affinity with death.

Not On View