



Casa Picasso

Street Payo Gómez, nº 14, 2º floor

"The hall in the Ruiz Picasso's house on Calle Payo Gómez is very long. This is where Pablo lived with his parents and sisters from 1891 to 1895. Unforgettable years for the artist. In his old age Picasso made public display of his love for Galicia. Not only did he like eating barnacles, but he also recited and sang in the Galician language. His friend Antonio D. Olano said that of all the presents he gave the artist, his favourite was *Cantares Gallegos* by poetess Rosalía de Castro. "The day after I gave him the book, he recited whole verses that he could remember", recalls Olano in his book entitled *Picasso gallego*. A Coruña, where Pablo came when he was ten years old, is where he fell in love for the first time, where he held his first exhibition, where his passion for bull-fighting took form, where he painted dozens of doves, where he met his first sponsor, ex-minister of the Republic Ramón Pérez Costales, where he was introduced into the European avant-garde by his teacher Isidoro Brocos, where he painted his first masterpiece, *The bare-foot girl ...* the Ruiz Picasso's were so involved with Galicia that the artist's father, José Ruíz, from Málaga, was one of the promoters of the Royal Galician Academy. The father who posed so many times for Pablo in the house on Calle Payo Gómez, who gave him his palette and brushes in A Coruña, a pictorial alternative with nuances of bull-fighting. This was a fruitful period from an artistic point of view too. "Picasso learned to draw and paint in A Coruña", says Elizabeth Cowling, an expert in Picasso and professor of twentieth-century European art. The artist himself exalted the value of his time in A Coruña: "Picasso thought his portraits in A Coruña were better than those from when he was studying in Barcelona. At times they were even more significant for him than

his works from the blue and pink periods", states John Richardson, author of an excellent biography of Picasso. Málaga, his birthplace, A Coruña, where his genius awoke, and Barcelona. The vital and artistic triangle of Pablo Ruiz Picasso has a distinct Galician note. A fundamental note, as the painter himself would often say. It was a child that came to A Coruña, but a genius who left. It was Pablo who came and a Galician 'Picassiño' who went. The light of the Tower of Hercules, which he painted, remained etched into his memory. The hall on Payo Gómez, conserved just as it was, was the pathway to glory, the runway where the most significant artist in the twentieth century took flight.

DE SOL Á SOL

De un niño de 13 años, hijo del profesor de la Escuela de Bellas Artes, Sr. Ruiz Biasco, son los dos estudios de cabezas pintados al óleo, que se hallan expuestos al público en el almacén de muebles que en la calle Real tienen los herederos de D. Joaquín Latorre.

No están mal dibujadas, el colorido es acertado y la entonación es bastante buena y todo ello resulta superior si se tiene en cuenta la edad del artista; pero lo que es sorprendente es la valentía y so tura con que están ejecutadas, y no dudamos en afirmar que ese modo de empezar á pintar acusa muy buenas disposiciones para el arte pictórico en el infantil artista.

Continúe de esa manera y no dude que alcanzará días de gloria y un porvenir brillante.

From left to right, starting at the top, *The barefoot girl* (1895), a detail of the signature on the A Coruña Card (1894), a photograph of Picasso as a child in summer 1895, *Portrait of Ramón Pérez Costales* (1895), and *Seascape* (1895)





OPENING TIME

Daily: 11 to 1:30 PM and 6 to 8 PM.
Sunday and public holidays: 12 to 2 PM.
Monday closed. Free admission.

Tel. 981 189 854

e-mail: casasmuseo@coruna.es

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