



Picasso

The Challenge of Ceramics

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ISBN	9788836644872
Publisher	Silvana
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	UK, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland, Germany, Eastern Europe, & Austria. Arab States non-exclusive. Selected territories in Asia, non-exclusive
Size	300 mm x 210 mm
Pages	160 Pages
Illustrations	130 color
Price	£24.95

- Presents 50 unique ceramic works from the collections of the Musée Picasso in Paris
- Accompanies an exhibition at MIC, Faenza from 1st November 2019 to 12th April 2020

This book explores the great interest that Pablo Picasso had in ceramics, which he certainly didn't consider a minor art, but a means of artistic expression in its own right, like sculpture, painting and graphics. In Vallauris, at the Madoura ceramic laboratories, Picasso dedicated himself to working clay for a period of 25 years, from 1946 to 1971, producing thousands of unique pieces.

This volume retraces this exceptional chapter of the Picasso's art, through 50 ceramics from the Picasso of the Musée National Picasso in Paris – a core of inestimable value, which represents almost half of the museum's large collection – placed in a fertile and unprecedented dialogue with the direct sources of his inspiration: classic ceramics with red and black figures, the Etruscan *buccheri*, Spanish and Italian popular ceramics, 15th century Italian graffiti, and examples of the Mediterranean area with iconographies of fish, fantastic animals, owls and birds, as well as terracottas from Mesoamerican cultures. A chapter is dedicated to the relationship between Picasso and Faenza through unpublished documents from the historical archive of the MIC, and to the historical video by Luciano Emmer of 1954 (*Picasso a Vallauris*).

Text in English and Italian.