

David Douglas Duncan, Picasso's Friend

Honorary citizenship has been conferred on David Douglas Duncan (now 99 years of age) by the town of Camaiore, in a ceremony at Villa Le Pianore in Capezzano Pianore (near Camaiore). At the same location, Duncan's photographs of Picasso are now on display.

Last year Duncan donated his portfolio of photographs of Picasso to the town of Camaiore. Thanks to the support of the Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca, this exceptional exhibit (curated by Enrico Stefanelli and set up by the architect Alessandra Guidi) can now be enjoyed by the public.

The American photojournalist knew the Catalan artist quite well. It was Robert Capa, in 1957, who suggested that Duncan and Picasso would become friends. Picasso had a huge home and laboratory near Cannes where he lived with his wife Jaqueline Roque. When Duncan arrived, Jaqueline took him upstairs and presented him to Picasso, who was in the bathtub, nude. That was where the first photograph was taken.

During 17 years of intense friendship (ending only in 1973, when the artist died), Duncan became well acquainted with the personal side of Picasso. He photographed not only Picasso, but also Jaqueline, the children Paloma and Claude, and the teckel dog Lump, Picasso's faithful companion.

Duncan was born in Kansas City in 1916. He studied archaeology, marine zoology and Spanish, which he spoke with Picasso. During World War II Duncan was a reporter on the Pacific Front and for *National Geographic*. Between 1946 and 1956 he worked for *Life* magazine, covering the British occupation of India, the oil boom in Saudi Arabia, the Greek civil war and the Korean and Vietnamese Wars. In 1971 he was invited to New York's Whitney Museum of American Art to exhibit his photographs. His images of Picasso have been collected in seven volumes.

Le Pianore was damaged by the March storms earlier this year, but its owners, the Cavanis Fathers, have managed to make this beautiful villa available. For now, however, the gardens must remain off limits to visitors.

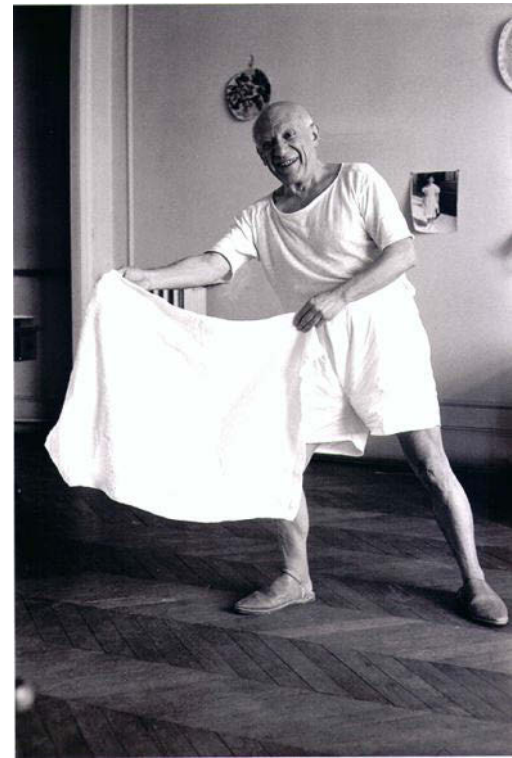
*Villa Le Pianore, Via San Michele 5/a, Camaiore (Lucca).
The exhibit is open from 5pm to 11pm, until 13 September.*

*Tickets: whole €7, reduced €5 (students, under 18, over 65,
groups of 10+). Free: children under 12 & Camaiore residents*

Information: Town of Camaiore, 0584 986334

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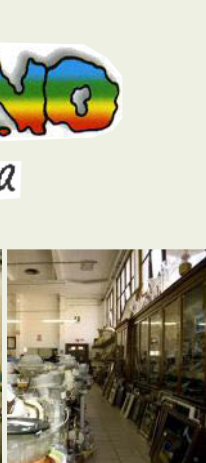
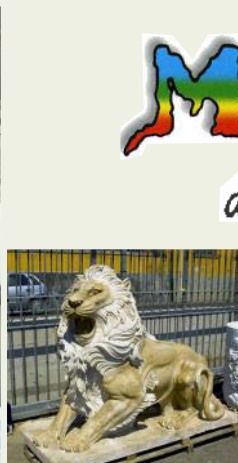
Pablo Picasso portrait by David Douglas Duncan



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