

# PABLO PICASSO VISAGE GÉOMÉTRIQUE, 1956



Estimate : €25,000 – 30,000  
with the Empreinte Originale de Picasso and Madoura stamps

A story revealed by Sophie Calle's discovery  
of an unanswered letter



*"In Picasso's personal archives at the museum, I found a letter [...] requesting from him an original drawing [...] in order to build La Maison des Yeux Clos with the proceeds from the sale. I could not find an answer from Picasso. I appealed to the generosity of Almine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso." Sophie Calle*

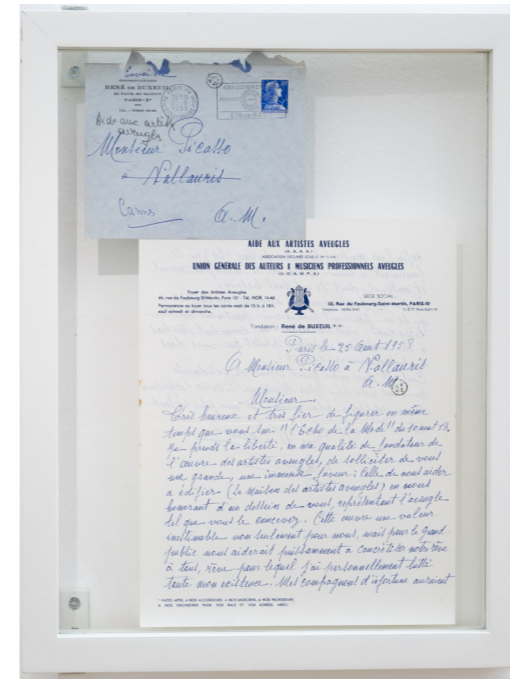
Single-lot auction on Drouot.Com closing on January 27<sup>th</sup>  
for the benefit of Le Livre de l'Aveugle and Fundación Almine Y Bernard Ruiz Picasso

Just as Sophie Calle is commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Pablo Picasso in her own way – with an unprecedented exhibition at Musée Picasso –, Drouot Estimations will propose a unique ceramic by the Spanish artist in a single-lot auction. The sale, which will be open online until January 27, 2024, is being held on behalf of two associations, Le Livre de l'Aveugle and Fundación Almine Y Bernard Ruiz Picasso.

The auction of this piece is a generous reply by Sophie Calle and Bernard Ruiz Picasso to a letter that went long unanswered. It was sent to the painter on August 25, 1958, and Sophie Calle found it in the museum archives as she was preparing for her exhibition.

Her show at the Musée Picasso is called *À toi de faire, ma mignonne*, and through it, Sophie Calle examines the work of the Málaga-born artist – as well as her own trajectory – in an off-beat, autobiographical way. Through the four floors of the exhibition, the visitor discovers two galleries that showcase the content of Sophie Calle's live-in workshop in the spirit of a Drouot auction. To complete the display of this imaginary succession, a catalog was compiled by Drouot Estimations. It is coupled with an Erratum in which the artist replaces the auctioneers' descriptions with personal stories about each lot in the collection.

"If I want to banish my fear that, upon my death, their shared history and the history that I shared with them will be erased, I must begin with the general of my estate. I therefore asked the auctioneers of Hôtel Drouot to stage my nightmare: to assess the objects at my Malakoff home and draw up an inventory of my belongings in descriptive but not estimative terms. After all, we live under the same roof, I will not be my own heir, and I am not planning on selling them. They are therefore priceless." Sophie Calle



Letterhead from the Association d'aide aux artistes aveugles addressed to Pablo PICASSO, requesting an original drawing of the blind man as he saw him.

Pablo PICASSO (1881-1973)  
Unique piece with the Empreinte Originale de Picasso and Madoura stamps  
Visage géométrique, 1956.  
Terre de faïence platter  
Overall: 31,5 cm x 37,5 cm  
Estimate: €25,000 – 30,000€



**DROUOT  
ESTIMATIONS**

Auctions on Drouot.com  
Until January 27, 2024

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Sophie Calle exhibition at the  
Musée Picasso  
*À toi de faire, ma mignonne*  
Until January 28, 2024