

Pablo Picasso

Los Toros - Jeu de la Cape 1961

Original work on Arches wove paper, 210x250mm



Private Collection, NFS

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This composition, *Los Toros - Jeu de la Cape*, is the original drawing from which a book template was taken, for **A Los Toros**, co-published with Jaime Sabartes.

The bullfight was a subject that Picasso examined and returned to frequently, particularly from the mid-1950s and 60s. Picasso, who had been taken to the Malaga bullring from an early age, was an avid follower of bullfights and after moving to Provence would often travel to see them at the arenas of Arles, Nîmes or Vallauris.

His friend and biographer Roland Penrose wrote that apart from his enjoyment of the action, 'the main involvement for Picasso was not so much with the parade and the skill of the participants but with the ancient ceremony of the precarious triumph of man over beast... the man, his obedient ally the horse, and the bull were all victims of an inextricable cycle of life and death' (Roland Penrose, *Beauty and the Monster*, in Penrose and Golding 1973, p.170).

Although a minor piece by Picasso, this drawing captures the drama and elegance of the bull-fighting spectacle that both entices and horrifies.