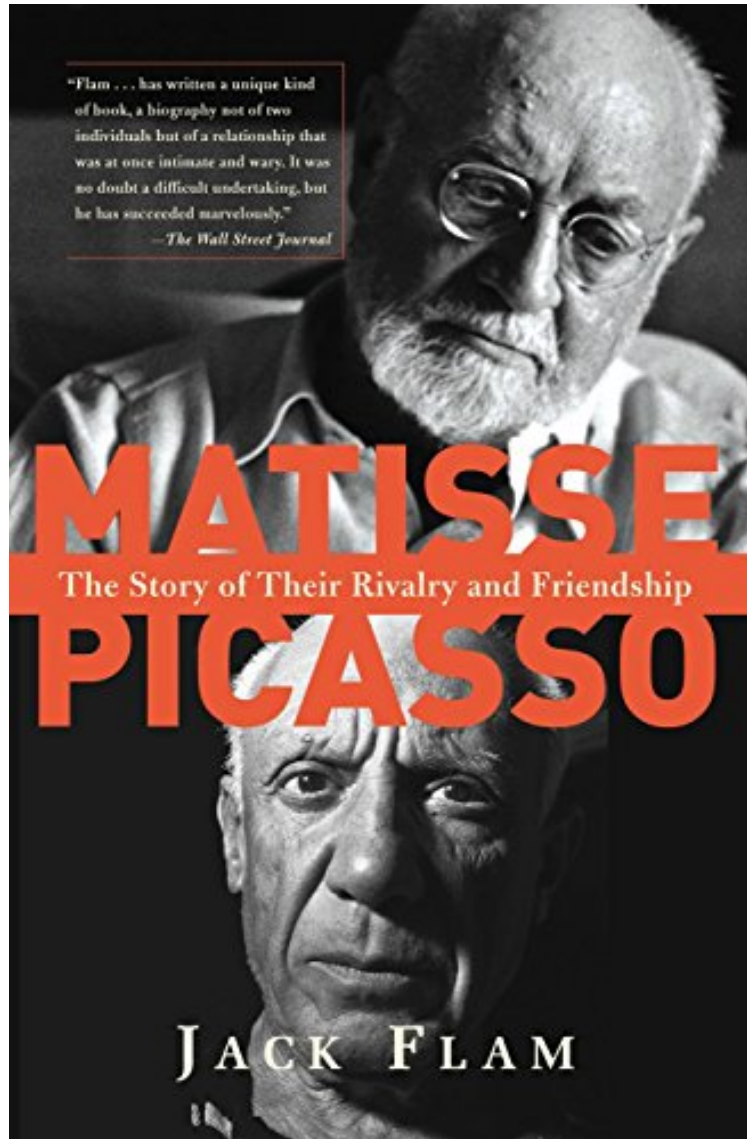


[Mobile ebook] Matisse and Picasso: The Story of Their Rivalry and Friendship

Matisse and Picasso: The Story of Their Rivalry and Friendship

Jack Flam

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Jack Flam : Matisse and Picasso: The Story of Their Rivalry and Friendship before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Matisse and Picasso: The Story of Their Rivalry and Friendship:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A masterpiece of art exploration and explicationBy John E. DruryJack Flam provides the key to an in-depth understanding of Picasso and Matisse, their persons, the influences on them, their art and how they played off against each other. With clarity and insight, he compares and contrasts their well known and lesser known paintings by tying each to the tradition of the "pictorial rhetoric and conventional

literary and biblical subjects of" Delacroix, the "unorthodox compositional modes" of Courbet and the techniques of the palette of Cezanne. In the end, these two giants of twentieth century modernism "reopened the dialogue with the past and changed its terms" after "Cezanne and the Post Impressionists had blocked the way; it was as if everything had already been done." This fascinating truth about the evolution of nineteenth century art directly impacting early twentieth century art, applies, one would think, not only to Post Impressionism but to Impressionism as well. It is this precise point that underscores the emergence of modernism. Flam is a fine writer of clarity who omits the usual adjectival praise and tropes in place of a controlled study of the line, the interpretation, the color, the subject and timeline for each painting he presents in the book. Matisse and Picasso were highly sensitive, subjective and complex artists unusually reactive to moods, people and events, thus rendering themselves and their feelings onto the canvas. Picasso, an artist of "ruthless egotism" whose art was highly derivative of others, comes off as more dependent on Matisse than Matisse on Picasso, yet Picasso far more recognized and celebrated than Matisse. As elegant as Flam is in his presentation, he seems to inch towards a preference to Matisse while cleverly observing that the public often judges paintings with its ears rather than its eyes. The book is well organized with black and white copies of each referenced painting, keyed to a reference guide to each painting and where they are located and a thorough bibliography. This is a book to keep and savor and highlight for the future and to take with you as one roams the world examining artistic genius. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good information for a painter

By J. Currin
I have read several biographies of these two painters and have come to know something of their personal lives. This book, however, is the first to give such clear explanation of their works and how they influenced each other. I had no idea that their relationship was so seemingly interdependent. I now have an even better understanding and appreciation for their legacy to us painters, historians, and the general public. Some of the author's interpretations of individual works seem a bit stretched - but not many. I especially appreciate that he consciously avoided naming the better of the two artists. We are left to our own conclusions.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Analysis

By Linda
As an art history major, I knew about both artists, but I did not know how their lives were entwined. The focus on how each of their developments influenced the other is valuable in understanding their art.

Matisse and Picasso achieved extraordinary prominence during their lifetimes. They have become cultural icons, standing not only for different kinds of art but also for different ways of living. Matisse, known for his restraint and intense sense of privacy, for his decorum and discretion, created an art that transcended daily life and conveyed a sensuality that inhabited an abstract and ethereal realm of being. In contrast, Picasso became the exemplar of intense emotionality, of theatricality, of art as a kind of autobiographical confession that was often charged with violence and explosive eroticism. In *Matisse and Picasso*, Jack Flam explores the compelling, competitive, parallel lives of these two artists and their very different attitudes toward the idea of artistic greatness, toward the women they loved, and ultimately toward their confrontations with death.

From Publishers Weekly
Timed to coincide roughly with the opening of the blockbuster Matisse-Picasso exhibition's third and final stop, at New York's MoMA QNS (February-May), this volume examines the enmity and amity between the 20th century's two greatest painters, mostly as evidenced by their art. Despite the subtitle, Flam, who brilliantly edited Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings, is much less interested in the endlessly chronicled lives of his subjects than in the work; sentences like "When Matisse returned from Morocco that spring, he was full of turbulent emotions, and he created some of his most memorable and original works" simply serve as transitions to the next phase of work-on which Flam is terrific. In one passage, he finds the word "NON" ("a symmetrical word that asserts its negation in both directions") painted into the window grillwork between the husband-and-wife of Matisse's 1912 *Conversation*-a word that had been showing up in Picasso's work for the previous year. Flam locates similarly productive appropriations and reappropriations between the two painters over the years, so that anyone standing in line for the exhibition in Queens will profit from at least flipping through this direct, jargon-free study. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Brilliantly details the strange union of this very odd couple."

About the Author
Jack Flam is Distinguished Professor of Art and Art History at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He has written extensively on nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and American art and his books include *Matisse on Art*, *Matisse: the Man and His Art, 1869-1918*, and *Les peintures de Picasso: Un theacute;acirc;tre mental*. He lectures internationally and has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.