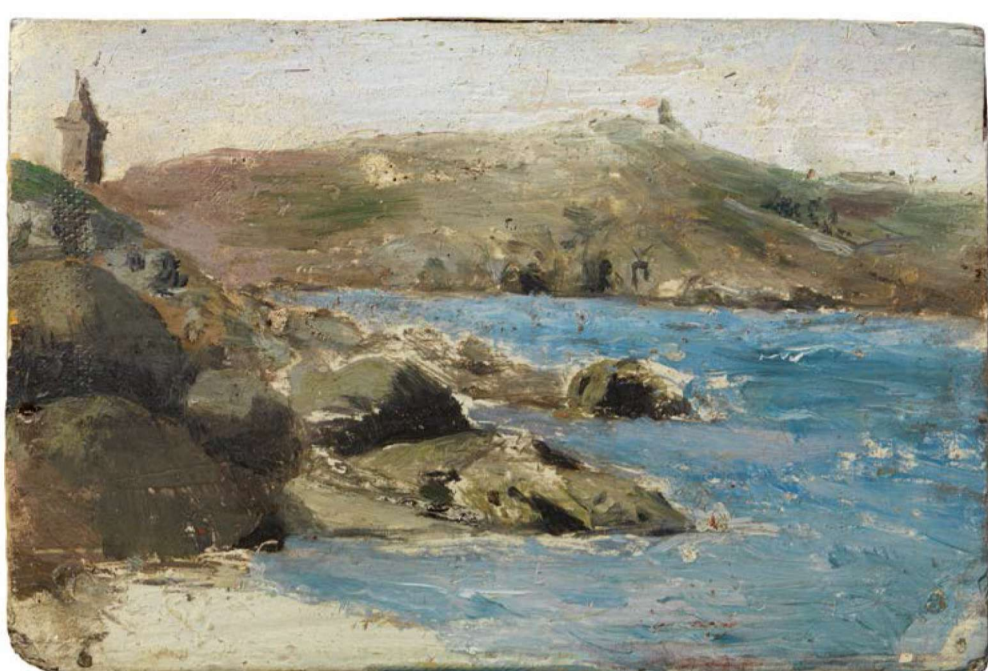




...the city that awakened his senses



The Tower of Hercules de Picasso. A Coruña, 1895. (.8)

Head (evocative self-portrait) by Picasso. París, 1945.

A brilliant child

Picasso honed his painting skills at the School of Fine Arts of A Coruña under the tutelage of his father and other teachers such as Román Navarro, a local man, and Isidoro Brocos, from Santiago de Compostela, which culminated in him holding two exhibitions, both in shop windows in Calle Real.



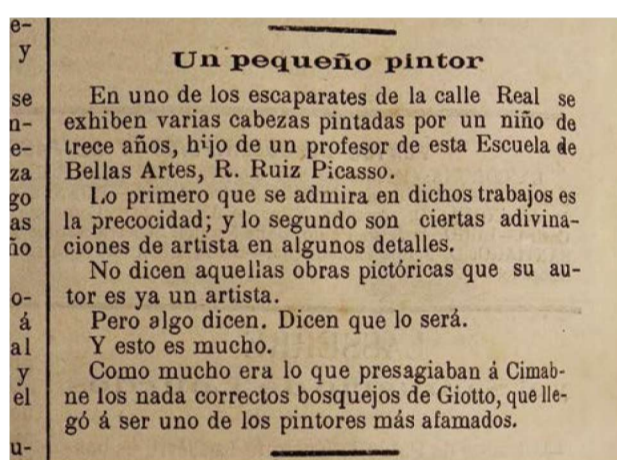
Following his first exhibition, a review in the **El Diario de Galicia** newspaper compared him to Giotto, while the *La Voz de Galicia* art critic correctly predicted that **“If he carries on this way, there is no doubt he will achieve glory and a brilliant future.”** It was in A Coruña where he first became interested in themes that he was to develop throughout his life, such as war reaching its peak with **“Guernica”**, beggars which he was to return to during his famous Blue Period, barefoot women, fauns and musketeers.

In October 1891, the Ruiz Picasso family arrived in the city of A Coruña from Málaga. Pablo was almost 10 years old and he was joining the head of the family, José, who had obtained a teaching position at the Provincial School of Fine Arts of A Coruña, very close to Calle Payo Gómez, 14-2º, where the Andalusian family took up residence.

Pablo attended secondary school for three years, achieving moderate grades, followed by a further three years at the school of arts, where his grades were extraordinary.

A Coruña was also to be the first place in which he first experienced love (with the Méndez Gil sisters), and death of his sister Conchita. It was also where his political awareness was first awakened linked to the republicanism of his patron Costales and where he would hold his first exhibition.

The family said farewell to the city in April of 1895 when his father was transferred to a school in Barcelona. Picasso came to A Coruña as a child, but left as a painter. He never returned, but he always held fond memories of his time here: “It is the city where my senses were awakened, which is something that neither time nor distance can erase,” he said many years after his departure.



Critique of the first exhibition by Picasso, in *Diario de Galicia* (22-2-1895).



Portrait of a bearded old man (Beggars) by Picasso. A Coruña, 1895. (.5)

Altar of the church of San Jorge. A Coruña, 1894. (.6)



Waiting instead by Picasso. A Coruña, 1895.

A Coruña: part of the exclusive club of Picasso cities

Picasso was born in Malaga, but it was in A Coruña the painter was born. His subsequent time in Barcelona and Madrid were the stepping stones towards his first trip to France, where he was to spend most of his life.

Malaga, Barcelona, Paris and Antibes are where the four largest Picasso museums are located, while his monumental work, *Guernica*, as well as other works, is housed at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

A Coruña, with its Picasso House-museum, collaborates with the dissemination of the work and life of the considered the greatest artist of the 20th century.

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Picasso's A Coruña

Picasso's World

"I discovered an entire world, my world, in Galicia," Picasso recalled more than 60 years after his departure. Following his childhood in Malaga, where he was subject to family discipline, in Galicia, he was afforded greater freedom, of which he took full advantage. "The most fun city I have ever known," he said of A Coruña. The time he spent in the city left a mark on several architectural locations, such as his house, the Eusebio da Guarda Secondary School, the Rosalía de Castro Theatre and the Tower of Hercules, as well as on outdoor spaces such as the Riazor and Orzán beaches and the Santa Margarita Park.

> *Funeral Oration for Conchita by Picasso. A Coruña, 1885. (.7)*

Orzán Beach by Picasso. A Coruña, 1895. (.3)



Picasso Museum-House
Payo Gómez, 14
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www.coruna.gal/cultura

In October 1891, the Ruiz Picasso family, arriving from Malaga, moved into the second floor of number 14 in Calle Payo Gómez, where they lived until April 1895. It is a house in the typical architectural style of A Coruña, with wooden verandas, of which the original structure still remains. A Coruña Town Hall has recreated a 19th Century home in this flat, where reproductions of the work created by Picasso when he lived there are on display. There is also an original etching by the artist as well as the best painting ever painted by his father, a "Pigeon House" featuring nine birds. According to legend, because his father was losing his eyesight, the small pigeon legs were painted by Pablo.



Plaza de Pontevedra
Plaza de Pontevedra
Eusebio da Guarda, still a secondary school today, is where Picasso attended secondary education. His grades were poor, but he also studied Fine Arts here, in which he obtained excellent grades. He studied for three years on the first floor of this building, taught by artists such as his father, Román Navarro and Isidoro Brocos. It was here where he also held his first group exhibitions and in the square outside, he would play at bullfighting with his friends, using jackets as capes.



Riazor and Orzán Beaches
Alongside the Santa Margarita Park, where they engaged in stone-throwing fights, the beaches of Riazor and Orzán are the scenes of Picasso's childhood, where he would play with his friends, Constantino Sarda Muñoz and Antonio Pardo Reguera, while dodging the waves. It was on Riazor beach where he first discovered female nudity, while peeping through the keyhole of a bathing hut.



Real, 92
Real, 92
This was the address of the pharmacy belonging to Gumersindo Pardo Reguera, who, as well as being a painter, was the father of Antonio, Picasso's best friend. Every day, young Picasso would pass by to pick up his friend and he would take the opportunity to look at any new work by Gumersindo, with whom he shared several models, such as Pérez Costales and "The Barefoot Girl". A chemist's shop still stands in this location today.



Picasso's Don José Ruiz in profile. A Coruña, 1895. (.1)

Picasso Academy A Coruña, 1895. (.2)



San Amaro Cemetery
Orillamar s/n
Pablo's younger sister, Conchita, died of diphtheria on 10 January 1895. Two days later, she was buried in the general cemetery (now renamed San Amaro cemetery) in the children's area of the first department, from where the remains were probably removed some years later. His patron, Pérez Costales, his teachers Brocos and Navarro, and Pardo Reguera, also a painter, were also buried in this cemetery. It is still possible to visit the tombs of the latter three men.



Tower of Hercules
Doctor Vázquez Iglesias, s/n.
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Picasso painted "The Tower of Hercules" in oil on a board. He also drew it in one of the handmade newspapers he produced in A Coruña; this time he depicted it on a plate and he named it "Tower of Caramel." This was what his father called it, in allusion to the colour of the granite with which it had been clad since the 18th century. Many years later, Picasso reminisced about the couples who visited this out-of-the-way place, although not necessarily to admire the landscape.



Real, 20
Real, 20
In February 1895, Picasso held his first exhibition at number 20, a furniture shop at that time. He received two excellent reviews in the press after he exhibited several head studies. In March, he held his second show on the same street, believed to be at number 54. He exhibited "The Man in a Hat", which is now housed at the Picasso Museum in Paris.



Plaza de María Pita
Plaza de María Pita
Teatro Rosalía de Castro
Riego de Agua, 37
Picasso often went to see plays by Echegaray at what is now called the Rosalía de Castro Theatre, but was then known as Teatro Principal. Plaza María Pita was already known by this name, but only twelve houses had been built there at that time. The statue of the heroine, installed in 1998, is based on a design by a teacher at the Provincial School of Fine Arts who was a rival of his father, González Jiménez.

