

# AMAR GALLERY

## DORA MAAR: BEHIND THE LENS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amar Gallery, London  
16th June - 18th August, 2024



Amar Gallery is proud to announce its reopening exhibition - *Dora Maar: Behind the Lens*, featuring photographs & photograms from the Dora Maar Estate. The exhibition is a celebration of Maar's life and is in conjunction with the upcoming release of bestselling author Louisa Treger's book, *The Paris Muse*, based on Maar's affair with Picasso, and the theatrical production *Maar, Dora* which is performing at Camden Fringe in August and is produced by Amar Gallery, Nadia Jackson & Spiky Saul.

Louisa Treger states "Dora Maar is mostly known for being Picasso's *Weeping Woman* as though tears are the only interesting thing about her. Amar

Gallery and my novel put her at the heart of the story and give her the recognition she deserves."

*Dora Maar: Behind the Lens* presents surrealist works of Maar as well as photographs of Picasso and *Guernica*, the celebrated anti-war painting for which Maar was the only official photographer. The exhibition also revisits Maar's erasure throughout art history. As a photographer she was a pioneer, admired by the likes of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Man Ray. Her position as Picasso's lover obscured her artistic talent, which extended far beyond photography, and included poetry and painting.

Arriving in Paris at the age of 19, Maar studied at the progressive Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Academy Julian and Ecole de Photographie. Here she refined her distinctive black and white photographic style. She soon established herself as a prominent photographer associated with surrealism, exhibiting at the 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition in London, alongside Salvador Dali, Man Ray, Eileen Agar and Paul Eluard.

As *Time Magazine* wrote in 2022 Maar's anti-fascist worldview influenced Picasso's art: "Like many surrealist artists, philosophers and poets during the 1930s, Maar had converted to left-wing politics. In fact, she became one of the Left's most involved activists—a radical move for a woman at a time when women were still largely excluded from politics in France; they only gained the right to vote in 1944." Part of the proceeds from *Dora Maar: Behind the Lens* will go towards supporting Shakti Vahini & We Power, two notable anti-trafficking organisations in India which serve for the protection of women & children in India.

#### DORA MAAR SELECTED COLLECTIONS & MUSEUMS

Getty Museum, California  
Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Tate, London  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
Princeton University Art Museum  
Cleveland Museum of Art

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<https://www.amargallery.com>

Amar Gallery was opened in Islington, London January 2017 to show world-class post-war and contemporary art. We champion a number of historically overlooked and important female, LGBT+ and minority artists. We show these artists because we believe in their work. Nothing matters more than the art but the reality is many of these fine artists were overlooked because of their gender, sex or race. We hope to help correct this imbalance and give these artists the spotlight they deserve.

Amar Gallery is reopening in June 2024 and is managed by director Amar Singh who started dealing art in 2010. He is a patron of the Tate & India's anti-trafficking organisation Shakti Vahini and India's organisation We Power which provides dignified employment opportunities for women survivors of human trafficking. The gallery also runs a programme of donating artworks by women, LGBT+ & minority artists to museums worldwide: <https://www.amargallery.com/donations> - over \$4 million worth of art by such overlooked artists has been donated to date.