

YALE
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For Immediate Release
January 8, 2009

**JOHN RICHARDSON SPEAKS ON PICASSO
IN SPECIAL PROGRAM ON OCCASION OF EXHIBITION
*PICASSO AND THE ALLURE OF LANGUAGE***

WHAT **John Richardson**, acclaimed author of the multi-volume biography *A Life of Picasso*, speaks on the artist in conversation with **Mary Ann Caws**, Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature, English, and French, Graduate Center, City University of New York. Mr. Richardson, widely considered to be the world's foremost expert on Picasso, will focus on the years 1917–32, roughly coinciding with the Surrealist era, on which Ms. Caws is a leading authority. This special event is generously sponsored by the Martin A. Ryerson Lectureship Fund.

WHEN **Thursday, January 29, 2009; 5:30 pm.**

WHERE **Yale University Art Gallery**
Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall
1111 Chapel Street (between York and High Streets)
New Haven, Connecticut

ADMISSION Admission is free.
Space is limited; overflow seating with simulcast will be available.

WHO Born in England in 1924, **John Richardson** lived in France for twelve years beginning in 1949. There, he became friends with Picasso, Braque, Léger, and Cocteau and, with the artist's encouragement, embarked on an analytic study of Picasso's portraits.

In addition to the first three volumes of *A Life of Picasso*, Mr. Richardson has written books on Manet and Braque and is a contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*. The first volume of *A Life of Picasso* was published to wide acclaim in 1991 and won England's prestigious Whitbread Prize. In 1993 Mr. Richardson was made a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. In 1994–95 he served as the Slade Professor of Art at Oxford University. He currently divides his time between Connecticut and New York City, where he is working on the fourth volume of the Picasso biography.

Mary Ann Caws is one of the world's leading authorities on Surrealist writers and poetry, with a specialty on the relationship between image and text. She has published widely, on topics including Surrealism, poets René Char and André Breton, Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury group,

and artists including Picasso, Dalí, Robert Motherwell, and Joseph Cornell, among others. She is also presently working to make available important Surrealist works in translation. Ms. Caws, whose most recent publication is a cookbook and memoir focused on Provencal cooking, has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, and has served as president of the Association for the Study of Dada and Surrealism, the Modern Language Association of America, the Academy of Literary Studies, and the American Comparative Literature Association.

EXHIBITION The important exhibition *Picasso and the Allure of Language*, on view at the Gallery from January 27 through May 24, 2009, examines Pablo Picasso's lifelong relationship with writers, and the many ways in which language affected his work. The exhibition comprises some seventy works in all media by Picasso, as well as select examples by fellow artist Georges Braque and photographs, letters, manuscripts, and book projects by a diversity of artists and writers. Together, these illuminate Picasso's deep and multidimensional interest in writing and language, and challenge the very notion of what have been considered "highlights" of his oeuvre.

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The Yale University Art Gallery, America's oldest and one of its most important university art museums, was founded in 1832, when patriot-artist John Trumbull donated more than one hundred of his paintings to Yale College. Since then, the Gallery's collections have grown to number more than 185,000 objects, spanning the globe and ranging in date from ancient times to the present day. The Gallery is noted for its important holdings of Greek and Roman art; early Italian paintings; later European art; American art; Asian art; African art; art of the ancient Americas; and Impressionist, modern, and contemporary works.

The Gallery is set to embark on the final phase of a ten-year expansion and renovation project, scheduled for completion in 2011. This includes the renovation of the Swartwout building and Street Hall, the two historic structures adjacent to the Gallery's recently renovated Louis Kahn building.

The Gallery is open to the public free of charge: Tuesday–Saturday 10 am–5 pm, Thursday until 8 pm; September–June, Sunday 1–6 pm. For additional information, the public may visit <http://artgallery.yale.edu>, or call 203.432.0600.

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For additional information about *Picasso and the Allure of Language* and related programs, contact Stephanie Markovic at Jeanne Collins & Associates, LLC, New York City: 646.486.7050, or info@jcollinsassociates.com.