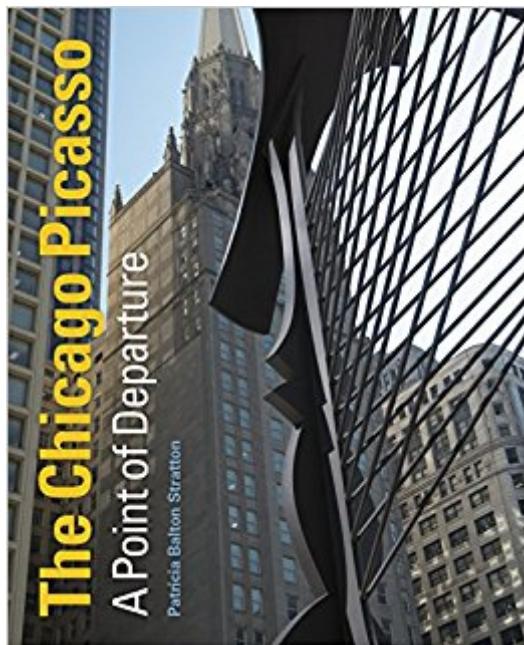


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The Chicago Picasso: A Point Of Departure



Synopsis

The Chicago Picasso made its debut in downtown Chicago in August 1967 and was immediately recognized as a supreme achievement in monumental sculpture and civic art. The capstone to Picasso's long and fabled career as a sculptor and modernist, the sculpture has defined the city of Chicago for generations and stands as a peerless example of the union of modern art and civic architecture. Art historian Patricia Stratton tells the inside story of the sculpture for the first time in *The Chicago Picasso A Point of Departure*, published to coincide with the 50th anniversary celebration of the famous unveiling. Relying on exclusive archival interviews and extensive research, all the controversial possibilities of the sculpture's inspiration are explored. Stratton tells the full story of monumental achievement in all of its historical and artistic glory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Patricia Stratton has told the story of the Picasso brilliantly--the artist, the architects, the civic ambition, the negotiations, the design and fabrication, the ownership, the controversy--all the elements that lie behind this most famous of all Chicago sculptures and its transformation from drawing and maquette to a monumental 162 tons of Cor-Ten steel standing 50 feet high. --John W. McCarter, Jr. Patricia Stratton has just written an absorbing book on the story of Picasso's gift to Chicago....Through her research she takes us into the curious world of Parisian art and Chicago politics that found a place for one of the most remarkable of Picasso's sculptures...modern, exciting and complex. --Thomas J. O'Gorman, Inside Publications

Patricia Balton Stratton was born in Cincinnati and received both her undergraduate and graduate

education at Northwestern University, where her masters thesis in art history concentrated on the acquisition, construction, and iconography of the Chicago Picasso. She served as a docent and guide for a number of regional art museums, as well as a volunteer and board member of the Chicago Public School Art Society (later known as Art Resources in Teaching) that was an affiliate of the School of the Art Institute. She divides her time between Chicago and Naples, Florida. Her daughter and four grandchildren live in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

This is a great read for anyone interested in sculpture, Picasso, Chicago, history or public art. The author has expertly laced together a thoroughly researched account of the pursuit and creation of the Picasso sculpture in Chicago's Civic Center Plaza 50 years ago. She examines the deep impact it has had on the city's identity and the arena of public art in America. The account is well-told and spiced with anecdotes involving Picasso, legendary mayor Richard Daley and a host of others. Controversy, lawsuits, secrecy and egos are all part of this true story. Professional and pedestrian reactions to the sculpture • pro and con, past and present • are included along with an abundance of color photos. I definitely will be sharing this book with friends.

Beautifully illustrated book tracing the history of the famous Picasso sculpture in downtown Chicago from its history to its legacy. The author writes with great clarity and insight about the complicated behind-the-scenes history of the sculpture as well as about how the sculpture fits into the larger development of Picasso's sculpture and cubist aesthetic. The photos are dazzling and truly enhance the storytelling. This book is both a beautiful art / coffee-table book and a thought-provoking piece of art criticism.

But for this book the fascinating history of this iconic sculpture would have been lost forever. The author has thoroughly researched and written a highly readable history illustrated with beautiful photos never seen before. This book is a must for everyone who values sculpture, public art, Chicago and history. Ms. Stratton has done a true service for the people of Chicago and the art world in general by researching, producing and preserving the history of this magnificent Picasso.

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