

In celebration of the Launch of the
Lydia Csato Gasman Archives for Picasso and Modernist Studies

Les Yeux du Monde announces the exhibition
Picasso, Lydia & Friends
31 August – 30 September 2012

Opening Reception, Friday 31 August, 5:30 – 7:30
Launch Party and Auction: Saturday, 22 September 2012

Les Yeux du Monde is excited to present the exhibition *Picasso, Lydia and Friends* from 31 August to 30 September 2012. There will be an Opening Reception on Friday, August 31 from 5:30 – 7:30. This exhibition is planned to coincide with the official launch of the non-profit *Lydia Csato Gasman Archives for Picasso and Modernist Studies* on September 22, 2012.

Lydia Gasman was a renowned Picasso scholar and beloved professor of modernist art history at the University of Virginia. An award winning artist in her native Romania, where she was required to paint in the social realist style, she left in 1961 for the United States where she attended Columbia for her doctoral work on Picasso, completing a ground breaking dissertation that was given a book contract by Yale University Press and was cited in [Life Magazine](#).

However, Gasman preferred continuous creation to editing her own earlier work, and instead of publishing the dissertation, she embarked on her second book, this time deciphering Picasso's Writings during World War II. This, while sharing her brilliant insights on Picasso and other modernist artists with countless fortunate University of Virginia students who flocked to her classes to witness the charismatic Gasman and to experience her brilliant and always ethical and relevant lectures first-hand. Picasso biographer John Richardson, who wrote about Gasman's dissertation in the [New York Review of Books](#) in 1984, again in 2011 in the catalogue for Gagosian Gallery's *Picasso and Marie Therese* exhibition, includes an essay, "Lydia, from the Other Side of the World" about the crucial contributions she made and the need to share them finally with a wider audience. Having been a close friend of Picasso's, Richardson also recognized that Lydia's mercurial mind paralleled Picasso's, thus helping her disentangle Picasso's poetic and symbolic texts.

When Gasman passed away at age 84 in 2010, she bequeathed her mammoth Archives of original manuscripts, papers and books to two of her former doctoral students Victoria Beck Newman and Lyn Bolen Warren. They are forming the non-profit Archives to catalogue and preserve in perpetuity Gasman's scholarship and papers, while also digitizing them, editing and publishing her books at last. The Archives will also be available for a wide audience to consult for research on modern art and culture as well as host educational events and seminars.

The exhibition *Picasso, Lydia and Friends* is intended to highlight the contributions Gasman made to the field of Picasso and Modernism in general. It will feature important prints by Pablo Picasso that deal with some of the themes Professor Gasman wrote about and lectured on, such as the cabana and its symbolism, the bullfight, and Picasso's writings. These prints will be shown alongside Gasman's furiously annotated, rigorously analyzed and colorfully deconstructed papers and books, in particular her copy of Picasso's Writings. The exhibition will also feature some of Gasman's constructions and paintings as well as work by colleagues, friends, and artists who shared aspects of her vision. These artists include Anne Chesnut, Dean Dass, Rosemarie Fiore, Sanda Iliescu, David Summers and Russ Warren.

The "friends" exhibited are all professional artists in their own right, but also had special relationships with Gasman. Anne Chesnut, with her MFA from Yale, designed the cover for Gasman's book and translated her ideas into graphic form. Her layered giclee "constellation" prints will be exhibited as a nod to Gasman's research on Picasso's writings during World War II and his visions of the cosmos. Dean Dass, long-time friend of Gasman's who remembers his intense discussions with Gasman when the UVA print studio was located just outside of Gasman's office, will show works inspired by his study of Picasso's Rose Period drawings at the Picasso Museum in Paris and his own fascination with the cosmos that surfaces in his Cloud paintings. Rosemarie Fiore, a star studio art major at UVA who took every class Gasman taught and went on to find great success for her innovative works after graduate school at the Art Institute in Chicago, will exhibit a cosmic firecracker drawing, made of residue from lit fireworks. The works by UVA Architecture Professor Sanda Iliescu, who is originally from Romania, as was Gasman, invoke in a very personal way some of the heroes of Modernist art that Gasman championed, including Klee, Picasso and Matisse, in symbolic and evocative line and color. David Summers, William R. Kenan Professor of Art History at UVA was a great friend and champion of Gasman whom Gasman frequently referred to in her own writings, will exhibit his recent paintings of Cezanne's beloved Mont Sainte-Victoire. Finally Russ Warren, whose paintings invoke Picasso in the same way Gasman's scholarship does, will exhibit his own tribute to these two greats in "A Footnote for Lydia."

The opening for this exhibition will take place on Friday August 31 from 5:30 – 7:30, while the official launch of the Archives will take place on Saturday September 22 with exhibition talks, an auction and a dinner to benefit the Archives. For more information, please call 434-973-5566 or LydiaGasmanArchives@gmail.com.

Les Yeux du Monde is located at 841 Wolf Trap Road in Charlottesville, VA. Hours are Thursday – Sunday 1 – 5 p.m. and anytime by appointment. For more information, please call 434-973-5566 or email LesYeuxduMonde@aol.com. Also see www.LesYeuxduMonde.com or find LYDM on Facebook and Twitter.