

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

Appeal Magazine

ENCOUNTERS

The Gagosian Gallery in Geneva brings to light a unique artistic collaboration

Between the years 1953 and 1962, a young artist André Villers and a seasoned one, Pablo Picasso, collaborated artistically with the medium of photography. Almost fifty years his senior, Picasso took interest in Villers's work, his passion and raw talent, upon their meeting in Cannes, France. Picasso gave him a tour of his studio and eventually offered Villers his first Rolleflex in a creative partnership that would go on to yield hundreds of photographs of Picasso's work that are of artistic appeal in their own right.

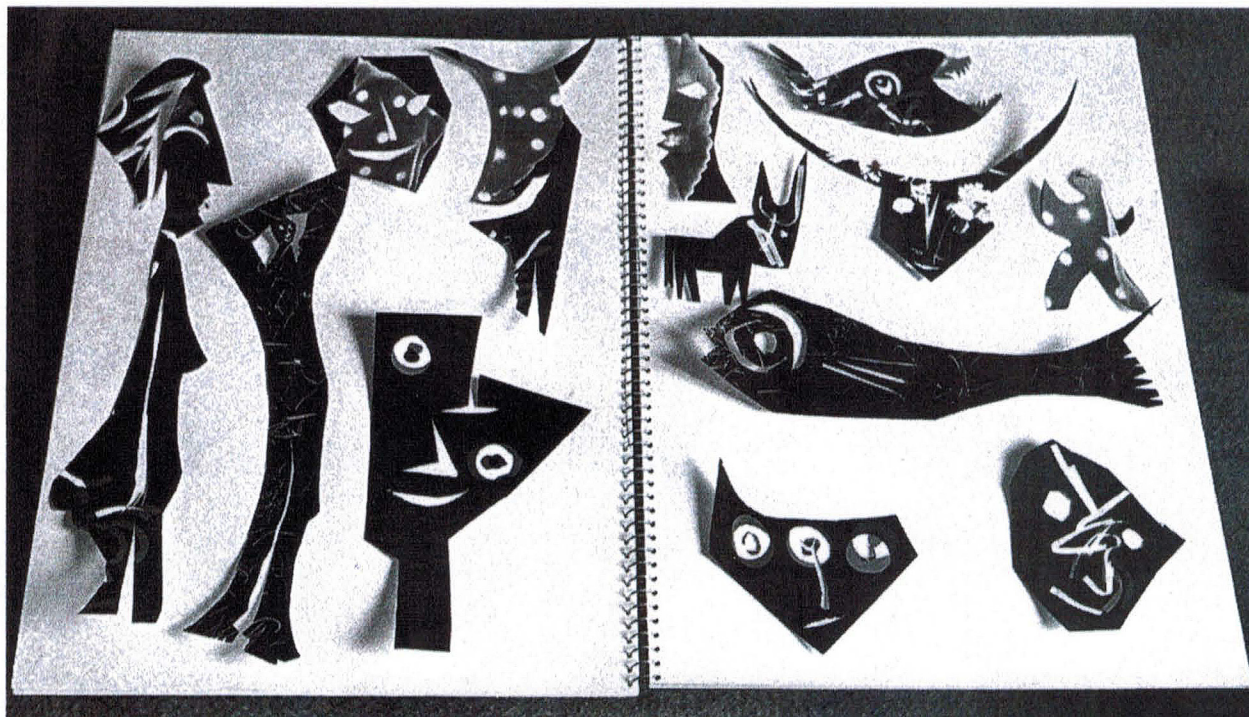
In one of their early encounters, Picasso said to the young photographer: "We have to do something together, us two. I will cut out some little figures and you will do the photos. With the sun, you will give importance to the shadows; you have to take thousands of photos..." And, in return, André Villers had once said to Picasso after years of their work together, "I'm the one who brought you into the world." Indeed, their work together put the sculptural works of Picasso in a truly modern light. Through strikingly graphic compositions, Picasso's style, known by his famous Cut-Outs and Cubist works, is framed in strong relief. It is said, in a larger context, that together they explored the transcendence of the semantic frontiers between photography and sculpture.

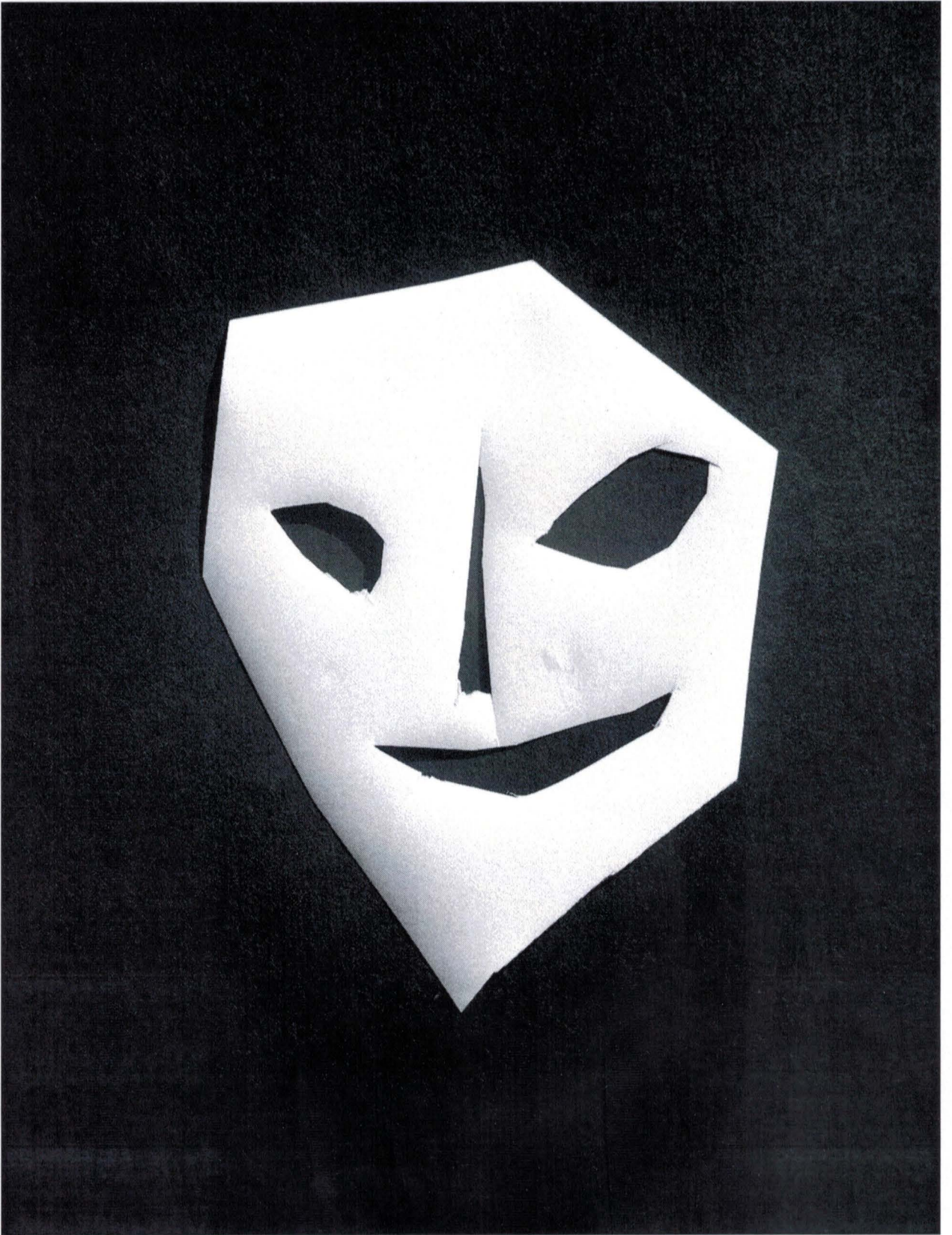
Eighty of their collaborative photographs, including playful self-portraits of the two together, mark the inaugural exhibition of the Gagosian Gallery's

freshly opened space on the Place Longemalle in Geneva. A large white minimalist space of 240 square metres, with high ceilings, expands across three floors as designed by the Genevois architect Michel Buri. It is the gallery's fifteenth space worldwide, opened after over 30 years since Larry Gagosian's first gallery space in Los Angeles.

The opening exhibition, entitled **VILLERS | PICASSO**, extends and completes several major presentations surrounding the works of Picasso, such as *Mosqueteros* held at the Gagosian Gallery in New York in 2009 and *Picasso: The Mediterranean Tears: 1945-1962* at the Gagosian Gallery, London, in 2010, which attracted tens of thousands of visitors. And now, an angle of Picasso's creative life, less seen, comes to light by the photographic lens of his time, following a decade of an artistic vision *à deux*.

Gagosian Gallery,
Until December 19, 2015 - 19 Place de Longemalle - 1204 Geneva
www.gagosian.com - www.andrevillers.net - www.picasso.fr





André Villers, *Picasso Cut Out: Mask 13*, 1959 © André Villers