

GALERIE
BOQUET



DORA MAAR: A NIGHT IN THE ABYSS
paintings, drawings and sketchbooks (1936 – 1944)

TEFAF MAASTRICHT

14 – 19 March 2026 • BOOTH SC8

GALERIE BOQUET AT TEFAF MAASTRICHT 2026



Brassaï, *Dora Maar in her studio, 6 rue de Savoie, Paris, in 1944*

For TEFAF Maastricht 2026, the gallery will present a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by the French artist Dora Maar (1907–1997), marking its first participation in the fair, in the *Showcase* section.

Known for her work as a surrealist photographer, Dora Maar resumed an intense practice of painting and drawing from 1936 onward, continuing until her death, even as her photographic work became increasingly rare.

This return to painting and drawing, for someone who had studied in André Lhote's academy, coincided with her meeting Pablo Picasso (1881–1973). The relationship between Dora Maar and Pablo Picasso lasted nearly 10 years, until 1946. It is known to have been a highly productive period for Picasso, and Dora Maar is credited with playing a key role in the creation and dissemination of *Guernica* (1937). This period also encompassed the entirety of World War II, which they spent between Royan and Paris.

This is one of the most documented periods of Dora Maar's life, known through the famous surrealist summers in Mougins, and the countless portraits of her painted by the Spanish artist.

Paradoxically, her own artistic production from this time remains relatively unknown and has only recently been rediscovered, thanks to the retrospective organized jointly by the Centre Pompidou, Tate Modern, and the Getty Museum (2019–2020).

Our presentation will focus on this pivotal period in Dora Maar's life and work, featuring pieces created exclusively between 1936 and 1944, in the darkness of the Occupation and under the overwhelming shadow of her companion, Pablo Picasso.

These pieces, exhibited in major public institutions over the last years, will be accompanied by two rare sketchbooks created between 1939 and 1941, immersing us further into the intimacy of Dora Maar's creative process.

The gallery has conducted extensive research and publication on the matter over the years, as well as working with public institutions to show the work of Dora Maar in temporary exhibitions.

This ongoing work is made possible by the support of the Dora Maar Estate, which provided access to its archives, and the expertise of art historian Victoria Combalia. Now chairing the Dora Maar Committee, Victoria Combalia is leading the development of a comprehensive catalogue raisonné of the artist's photographs, drawings, and paintings—a crucial step in the long-term scholarly reassessment of her work.

In this spirit, the presentation at TEFAF Maastricht seeks to contribute to the ongoing international effort to rediscover and recontextualize Dora Maar's work

Jules Boquet



DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
The Cage
1943
Oil (ripolin) on canvas
100 x 81 cm

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Still life with Brush and Pitcher
c. 1944
Oil on canvas
162 x 114 cm (63 × 44 7/8 in)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Still life with Zinc Basin
c. 1944
Oil on canvas
162 x 130 cm (63 x 51 3/16 in)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Portrait of Pablo Picasso
1936
Pastel on paper
57,5 x 45 cm (22 5/8 x 17 11/16 in)

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Dora Maar



DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Woman in check

1939

Graphite, blue ink and glue on paper

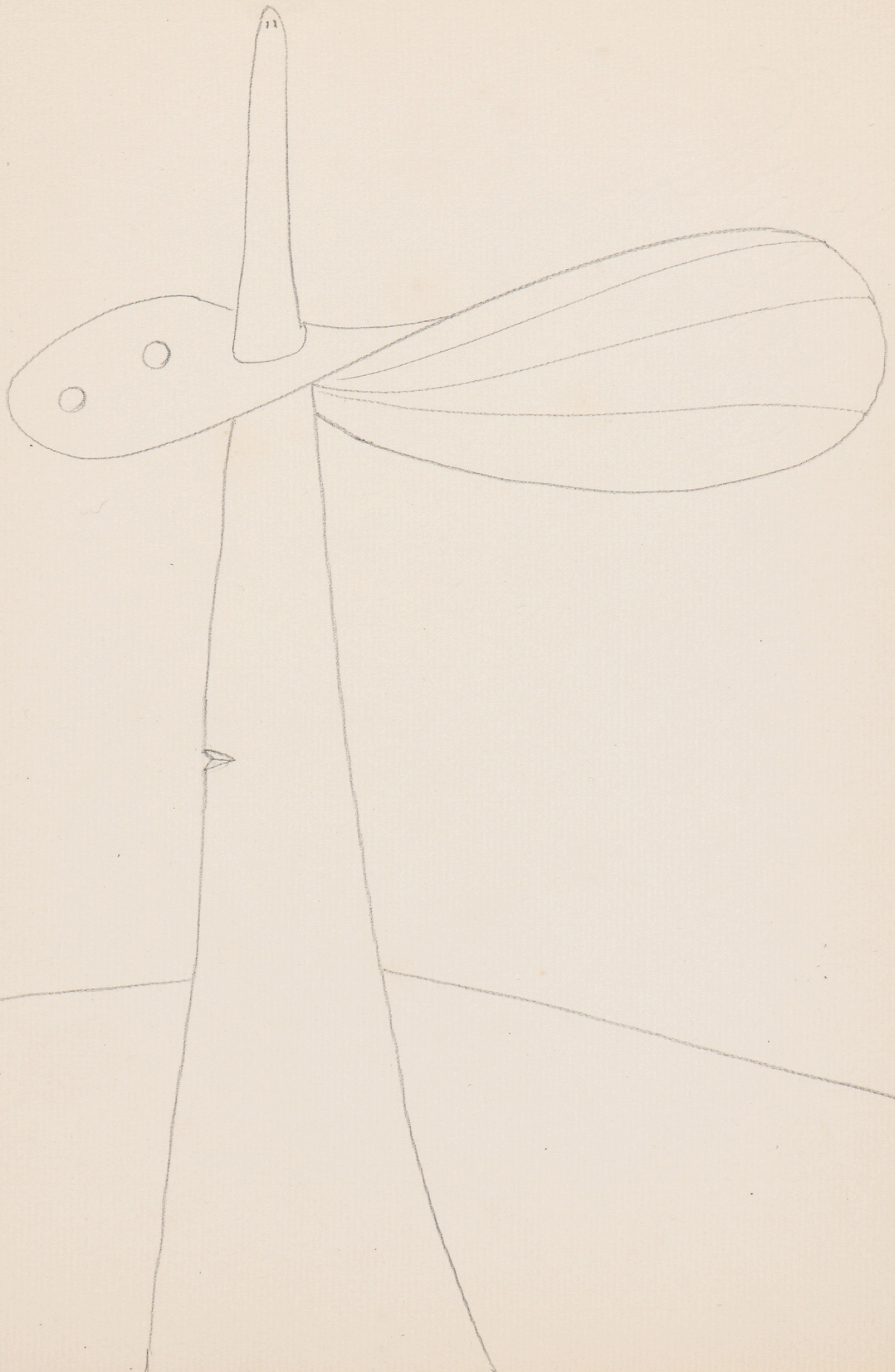
31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

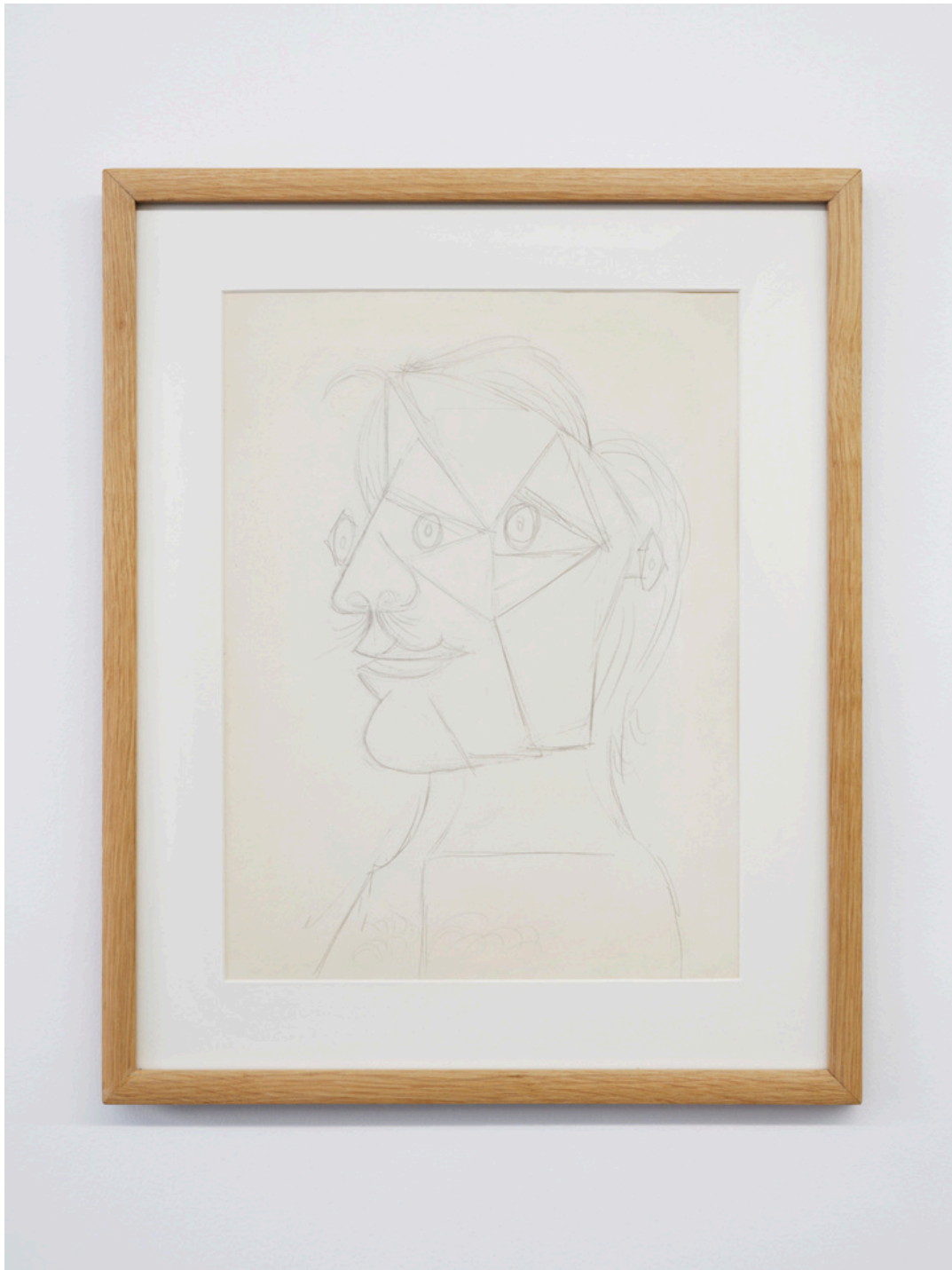
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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Helicoidal figure
1939
Graphite on paper
30 × 23,5 cm (11 3/4 × 9 1/4 in)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Portrait of Pablo Picasso
1939
Graphite on paper
31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Self-portrait

1939

Colored pencils, ink and graphite on paper

31,9 × 24,5 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Portrait of a woman (Jacqueline Lamba)
1939 - 1940
Graphite on paper
31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Woman in red

1939

Graphite, ink, ink wash and colored pencil on paper

31,9 × 24,2 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Woman in blouse

1939

Colored pencils and graphite on paper

32 × 24,2 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Portrait of a man (Pablo Picasso)
1939
Graphite India ink and ink on paper
31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

The couple

1939

Graphite on paper

31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Self-portrait

1939

Graphite on paper

31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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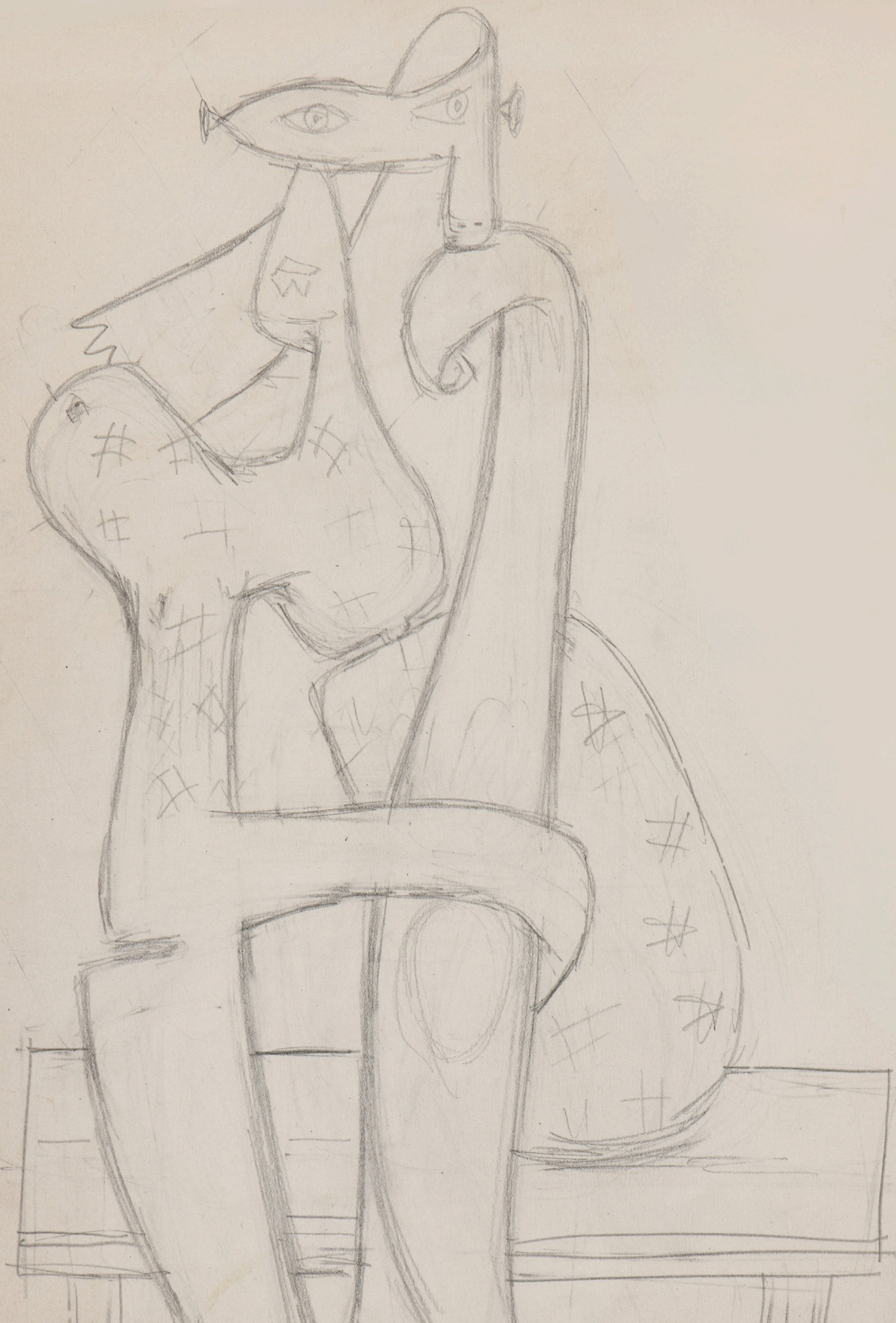
DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Standing Woman
1939
Graphite and ink on paper
31,9 × 24,3 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

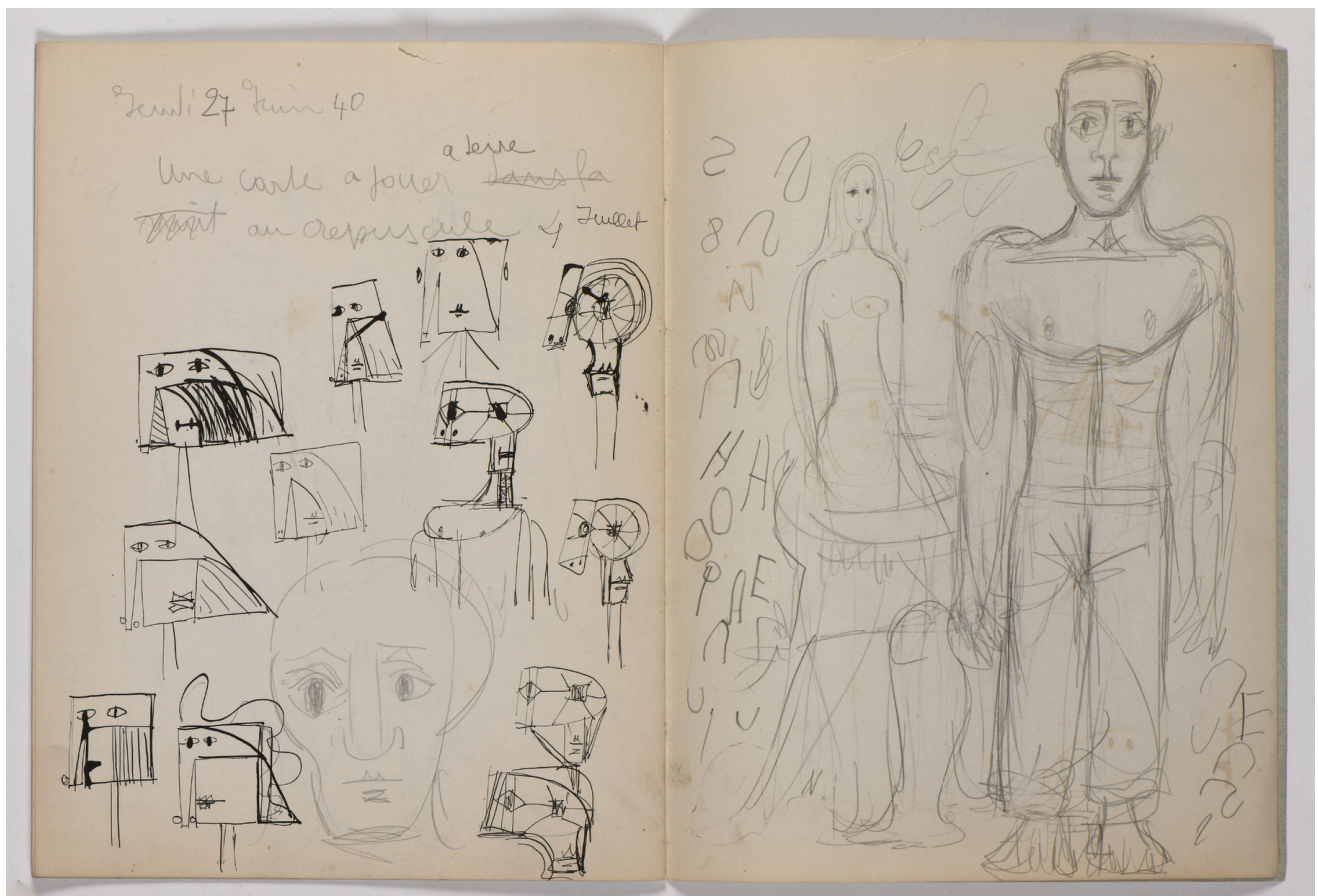
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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)
Woman sitting on a bench
1939
Graphite on paper
31,9 × 24,2 cm (12 9/16 × 9 9/16 in.)

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

MSM Sketchbook

1939 - 1941

Graphite, ink and green grease pencil on paper

32 x 24,2 cm (12 9/16 x 9 9/16 in.)

Includes 14 drawings recto-verso, with notes and poetry

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DORA MAAR (1907 - 1997)

Folding notebook with red leather cover

1939

Folding notebook with red cover, containing 8 laps

Graphite, wax crayon and oil on card

9,6 x 7 cm (3 3/4 x 2 3/4 in), each lap

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