

PABLO PICASSO

Les enfants et les jouets

1901



oil on board 51.4 x 66 cm

PABLO PICASSO

(1881-1973)

"Les enfants et les jouets "

signed '-Picasso-' (lower right)

oil on board

51.4 x 66 cm

Painted in spring 1901



PROVENANCE:

Acquired by the family of the present owners, circa 1960

Christie's, Impressionist and Modern Evening Sale, New York, Wednesday, May 04, 2011, Lot 24

EXHIBITED:

(possibly) Paris, Galleries Vollard, Exhibition of Paintings by F. Iturrino and P. R. Picasso, June- July 1901, no. 31 (titled Les Gosses)

According to Josep Palau i Fabre, the present work may have hung at that important exhibition at Ambroise Vollard's gallery, which effectively launched Picasso's career in France. The year before, his work was included in a smaller exhibition at the gallery of Berthe Weill. But it was Vollard, known for his ability to recognise and promote new talent, that propelled the young Spaniard into the limelight. Picasso's own assessment of the exhibition was that it had 'some success. Almost all the papers have treated it favourably, which is something.' The poet Max Jacob, whom Picasso would later feature in several paintings and drawings of the teens and twenties, confirmed that 'as soon as he arrived in Paris, [Picasso] had an exhibition at Vollard's, which was a veritable success' (quoted in Picasso, Challenging the Past (exhibition catalogue), National Gallery, London, 2009, p. 30). Following this important showing of his work and its overwhelmingly positive critical success, Picasso would be recognised as a major force among an emerging new generation of artists in Paris.

Literature:

Certificat d'authenticité du Comité Picasso

Coquiote, Gustave, et al. [PA.01a*] Exposition de tableaux de F. Iturrino et de P. R. Picasso (Galerias Ambroise Vollard, Paris, June 24/25 - July 14, 1901). Paris: Galeries Ambroise Vollard. 1901. (31) Mallen, Enrique, ed. (OPP) Online Picasso Project. Sam Houston State University. 1997-2017. (01:287)

Palau i Fabre, Josep. [JP.80] (P.I) Picasso Vivent (1881-1907). Barcelona: Ediciones Polígrafa. 1980. (I:582)

Palau i Fabre, Josep. [JP.81] (P.I) Picasso: The Early Years (1881-1907). Köln: Könemann. 1981. (I:582)

Wofsy, Alan, ed. (PP) Picasso's Paintings, Watercolors, Drawings & Sculpture: A Comprehensive Illustrated Catalogue, 1885-1973. 28 Volumes. San Francisco: Alan Wofsy Fine Arts. 1995-2016. (01:215)

Wright, Barnaby, ed. [BW.13] [BW.13*] Becoming Picasso: Paris 1901 The Courtauld Gallery, London, 14 February – 27 May, 2013. London: Paul Holberton Publishing. 2013. (43p)

J. Palau i Fabre, Picasso, The Early Years, 1881-1907, Oxford, 1981, pp. 232 and 252, no. 582 (illustrated)

The Picasso Project, ed., Picasso's Paintings, Watercolors, Drawings and Sculpture: Turn of the Century, 1900-1901, Barcelona, Madrid and Paris, San Francisco, 2010, p. 162, no. 1901-215 (illustrated).

Picasso Administration 2017 certificate – Claude Picasso

Picasso's early works

- The painting *Les enfants et les jouets*, executed in spring 1901, is assigned to the flamboyant final status of Picasso's early working style at the time he feverishly took up the impressionistic color palette and frenzied brush strokes just before the blue period began.
- 1901 was a key year in Picasso's artistic development and he decided to condense his artist signature from the previous years used form "P.R.Picasso" to an underlined –Picasso–, as equipped on the painting *Les enfants et les jouets*, which Picasso at the end of 1901 reduced on his second name and without parentheses, it became his artistic quality term throughout his whole artist's life.
- In 1901 Picasso was highly productive, he created around 200 works, the outstanding and most impressive 64 of these paintings were presented in his important debut exhibition at the gallery of the Parisian art dealer Ambroise Vollard – known for his ability to recognize the best and highly promising new talents– which effectively propelled the young Spaniard into the limelight and launched Picasso's early career in France.
- The very few existing early-style works Picasso, presented from June to July 1901 at Ambroise Vollard's gallery, are in important museums or distinguished collections of renowned international collectors today.
- The most expensive painting from Picasso's early working style, exhibited in Picasso's Vollard show, which ever come to auction was the self portrait *Yo–Picasso*, executed in 1901, this early masterpiece was sold to the shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos in 1989 at Sotheby's (New York) for 47.9 million USD.

Related peer group to *Les enfants et les jouets*



Les enfants et les jouets, 1901
Private collection, exhibited at
Vollard's gallery in 1901



Le Roi Soleil, 1901
Hermitage Museum,
St. Peterburg,
exhibited at Vollard's
gallery in 1901



Mother leading two
children, 1901
Saint Louis Art Museum,
exhibited at Vollard's
gallery in 1901



Mother and child,
1901
Kunstmuseum Bern,
exhibited at Vollard's
gallery in 1901



L'enfant à la poupée, 1901
Musée des Beaux Arts,
Grenoble

Historical Background

Picasso traveled to Paris several times, beginning in 1900, before settling there permanently in 1904. In May 1901 he left Barcelona for his second stay in Paris. The year 1901 marked Picasso's explosion onto the Parisian art scene with his first show at Ambroise Vollard's gallery, after his paintings were included in a smaller exhibition at the gallery of Berthe Weill the year before.

When the exhibition at Ambroise Vollard's gallery opened on 24 June 1901, sixty-four numbered entries of paintings and a few number of pastels, watercolors, and a large group of drawings lined the dealer's walls. The small gallery space was filled with pictures, they hung from floor to ceiling, and some were probably stacked in Vollard's back room as well, to take place of works that were sold as the exhibitions run its course.

Following this important exhibition of his work and its overwhelmingly positive critical success, Picasso came under the support of Ambroise Vollard in his first flush of commercial success, recognized as a major force among an emerging new generation of artists in Paris.

One of the flattering, highly enthusiastic reviews of Picasso's Ambroise Vollard's gallery show, published in *Revue Blanche* in 1901, pointed out that the very young, only 19 year old painter, „has the power of divining the essence of things ... Like all pure painters he adores the use of color for his own sake ... he is enamored of all subjects, and every subject is his." (quoted in: J. Richardson, *A Life of Picasso*, New York 1991, p. 199)



About *Les enfants et les jouets*, 1901

The painting *Les enfants et les jouets*, is a very veritable masterpiece for collectors, who have the same sophisticated strong sense of taste as Ambroise Vollard, able to safely identify the decisive works of the flamboyant final status of Picasso's early working style.

Collectors who are seeking to complete their Picasso collection with a significant painting of his very early artworks will acquire a very impressive artwork equipped with the rare, legendary, and very sought underlined intermediate signature –Picasso–, as very few of these special works exist.

The brilliantly painted piece *Les enfants et les jouets* is one of the small number of exceptional depictions of small children and mother-and-child presentations finished as a full-fledged oil painting which were part of the prominent exhibition at Ambroise Vollard's Parisian gallery – and certainly the most elaborate and well-characterized to this time.

Picasso's ductus, created in a flurry of creative inspiration as he adjusted to life in Paris, was a result of his exposure to work to the modern Parisian artists at the time.

Les enfants et les jouets is representing Picasso's skilled artistic, excellent execution and his safe technical handling of the painterly impressionistic means of expression in order to characterize the relationship between two little children presented with their toys. The brushwork is extraordinarily safe and loosely set, the toys in the foreground are described with love and attention to details, the green and bluish tones in the background mark a perfect frame for the two small children figures in the center of the picture, wearing radiant virtuous presented red and white robes. Picasso does not omit to equip the two children with an own psychological character and to give them a cute and very charming personality.

Picasso's early work *Les enfants et les jouets* is also an early reference to his strong focus on human faces and figures – a basic and favorite theme determining the entire artistic oeuvre. With that in mind, it is significant that almost half of the works exhibited at Vollard's gallery are dedicated to this theme. Vollard's very certain eye clearly recognized that these subjects would play an important role in every later created work of this extremely young talent from Spain and he decided to concentrate his exhibition especially on these sujets and selected almost half of the exhibited paintings from this section.

Additional information

- *Les enfants et les jouets* is one of the rare highlights of Picasso's early working style, shown in the Vollard's exhibition, and equipped with the legendary, very sought underlined intermediate signature – Picasso–, all of these very few existing paintings are in high demand on the market for Picasso's early works and a large number is in museum collections today.
- *Les enfants et les jouets* should be expressly offered under strictest selection criteria and should be specifically presented to real connoisseurs, only interested in museum quality, and very discerning Picasso lovers with high quality requirements and a deep knowledge of his oeuvre, able to identify that they are confronted with a real hidden gem.

2018

9.8

- 11.30

9:00-21:00

20:30停止入场

Picasso

毕加索 Picasso

THE FORMATION
OF A GENIUS

一个天才的形成

主办



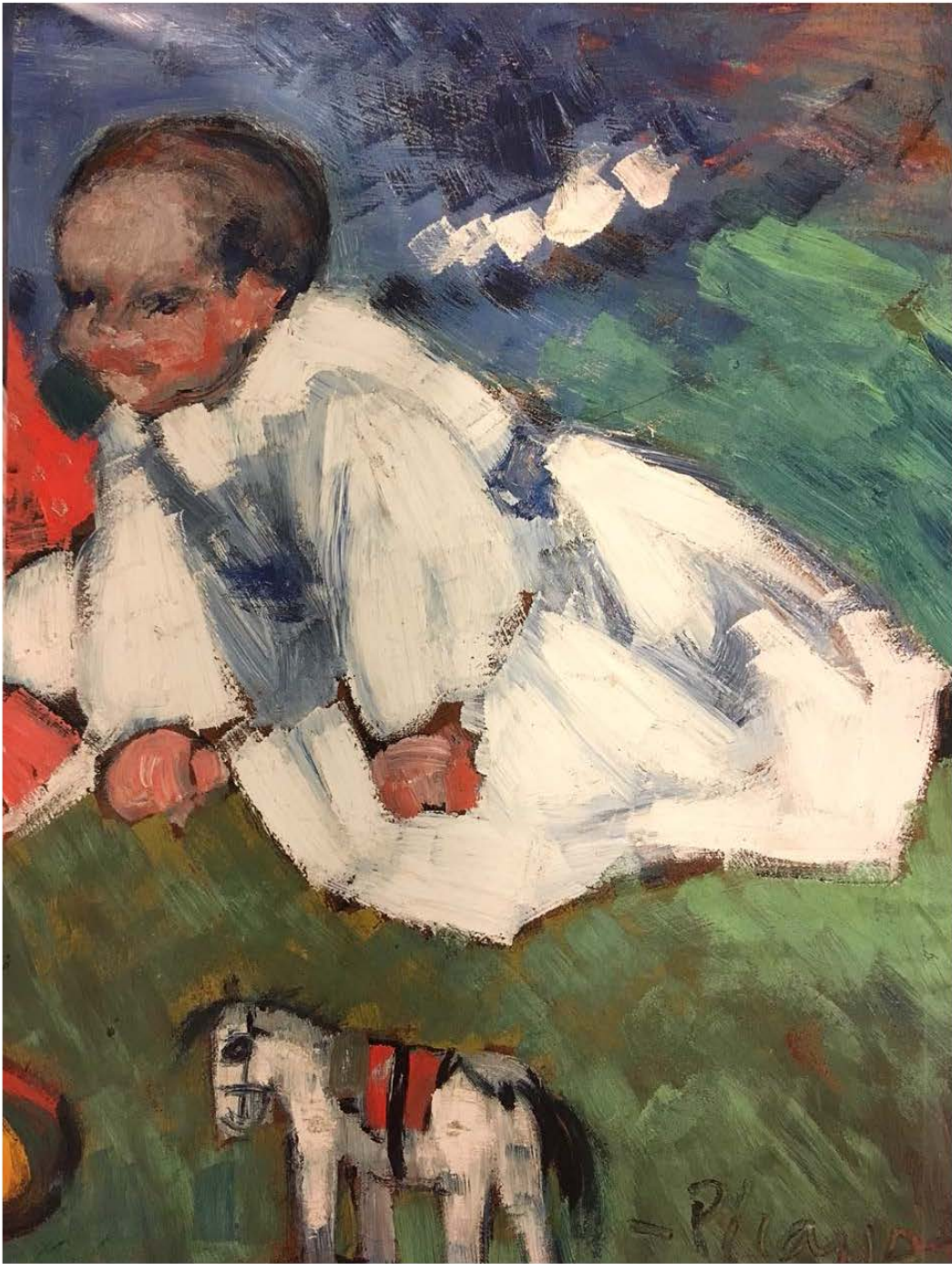
协办



地址:浙江省嘉兴市嘉善县武水路99号新西塘越里左岸美术馆

Address: Yueley Art Museum, Xin Xitang Yueley, No.99 Wushui Road, Jiashan County, Jiaxing City, Zhejiang Province

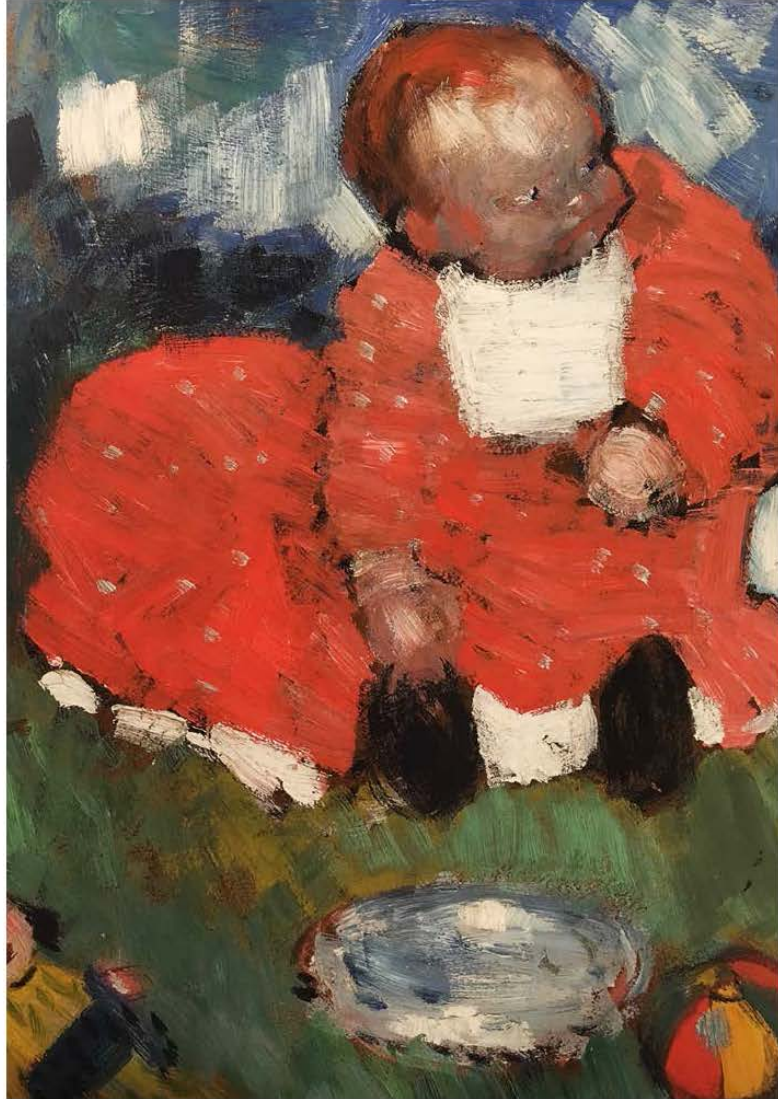
毕加索《母亲》, 1930, 私人收藏, 现藏于西班牙加鲁加之家, Pablo Picasso, Maternidad, 1930. ©Siverno Pardo © Susceptuón Picasso 2018



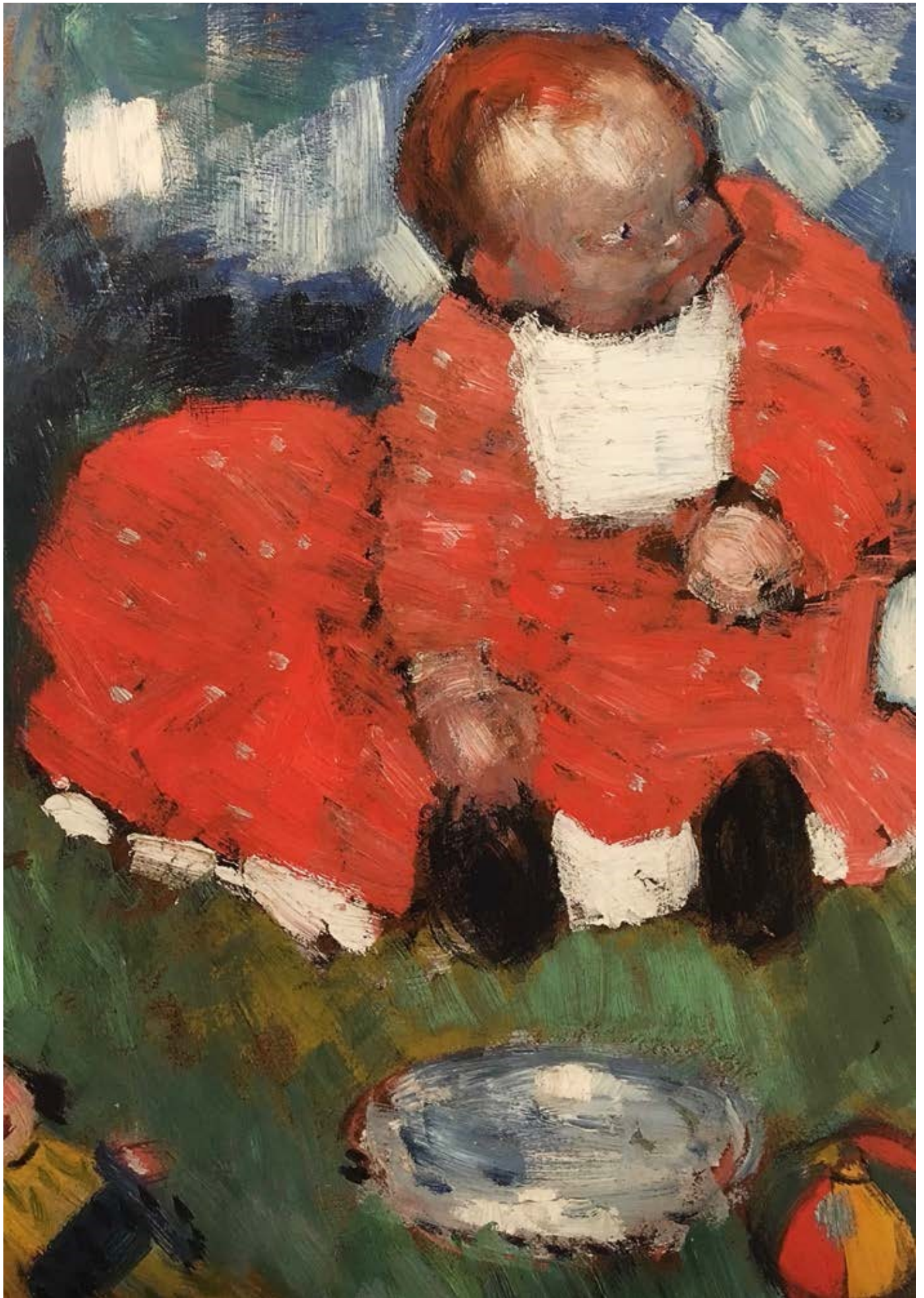
Les enfants et les jouets, detail

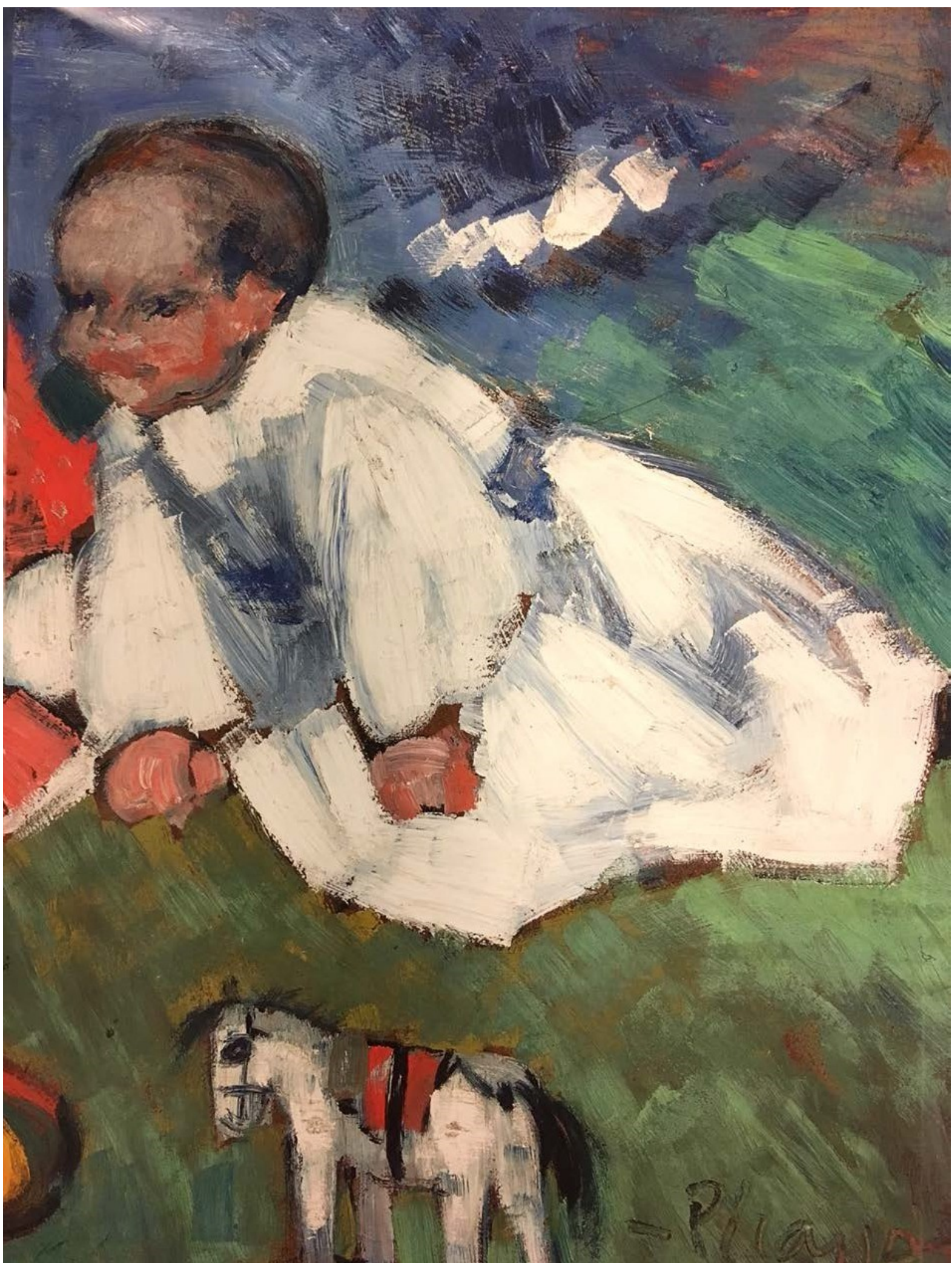


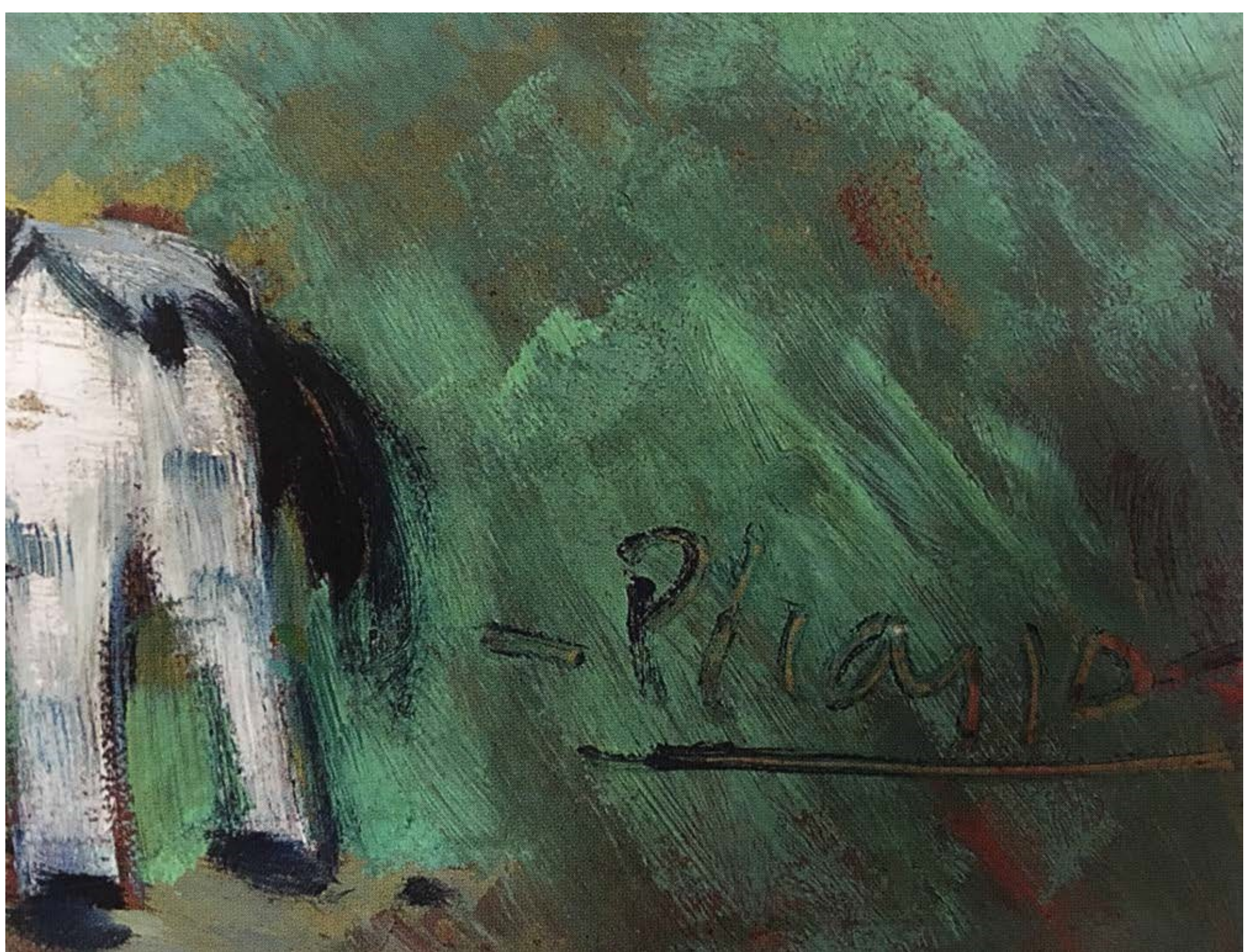
Les enfants et les jouets, detail



Les enfants et les jouets, detail







Pablo Picasso at the age of 15, 1896 -
In honor of the birthday of Pablo Picasso

