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Picasso and Chagall visit UWO's McIntosh Gallery

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Conrad Floryan GAZETTE

The Grant and Peggy Reuber Collection of International Works on Paper is on display to the public for the first time at the McIntosh Gallery. The exhibit, on until December 6, showcases the work of many internationally acclaimed artists, including Pablo Picasso and Toulouse-Lautrec.

The husband and wife, explains Museum Curator Catherine Shaw, had very different tastes in art, so there is a remarkable diversity in the collection.

Grant Reuber, former Economics professor and Chancellor of Western University, tended towards artwork in the Western

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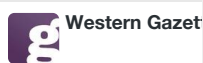
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canon — prints from Toulouse-Lautrec, Whistler and Renoir are on display. Peggy Reuber, on the other hand, focused on more contemporary artists from the Canadian sphere, including Clarence Gagnon and David Milne.

Dominating the right-hand wall is British artist Richard Hamilton's etching *Picasso's Meniñas*, which features recognizable figures from many of Picasso's famous works — the bull from *Guernica*, for example. Hamilton's etching is playful, but not quite pastiche — he pays homage to Picasso's series of works *Las Meniñas*, itself a reference to the monumental work and magnum opus of Velazquez with the same title.

"Hamilton wanted to acknowledge the mastery of one master through the work of another master," writes Brad Morosan, department of visual arts MA candidate.

This regressive series of artistic homages acts as a sort of panorama of Western art over the decades.

The theme of homage is a common one in the collection: Picasso's *Le Déjeuner sur L'Herbe* is a study, a reworking, of the infamous Manet painting of the same name that provoked such outrage when first displayed. In fact, this work is one of over a hundred artistic studies Picasso did on Manet's controversial painting. Elements from the original are discernible — the glass and picnic, the nude woman, and the black-clad gentleman — but the scene is delivered in Picasso's unique and unmistakable style.

Also on display are the bizarre and fascinating illustrations of the French artist Marc Chagall for Nikolai Gogol's 1848 work *Dead Souls*, a satire of mid-19th century provincial life in Russia. The etchings are a significant departure from Chagall's usual, colourful works — the stark black-and-white style features non-realistic caricatures, acting as "picture-poems that act as a complement to Gogol's novel," according to Morosan.

A lifework of careful, dedicated artistic study has produced this remarkable collection. The exhibit runs until December 6, and the gallery is open to all students.

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