



Georges Braque: Picture "Oiseau bleu (Oiseau IV)" (1952)

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Towards the end of his artistic career, the flying bird became a central motif in the works of Georges Braque. Although birds also appeared in Braque's earlier still lifes, they evolved into an independent subject from the 1950s onwards. One explanation for Braque's fascination with this creature of the air, which lasted for several years, may lie in its representation of the artist's intense engagement with three-dimensional space and its translation onto the surface.

In an interview with the French art historian Jean Leymarie for the magazine "Quadrum" in 1958, Braque described his path to this motif: "In 1929, I first encountered the motif for an illustration of Hesiod. I had already painted birds in 1910, but they were embedded in still lifes, whereas in my current works, I am enthusiastic about space and movement."

The work offered here, "Oiseau bleu (Oiseau IV)" from 1952, depicts the figure of a bird in a flat, geometric perspective. The colour lithograph comes from the strictly limited and hand-signed small edition of only 8 copies.

Etching, 1952, edition of 8 copies on wove paper, numbered and signed. Catalogue raisonné Vallier 77. Motif size 19 x 29.5 cm. Sheet size 24 x 34 cm. Size in frame 30.5 x 36.5 cm as shown.

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