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## Picasso's Women

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# Picasso's Women

by Daniel R. Schwarz

## I

Curvicular Marie Therese, earth mother:  
passionate sensuous images  
evoking children blowing bubbles,  
romping on the sand,  
gently swaying to Antibes breezes—  
blissful memories set to gentle music.  
*Take Girl before a Mirror:*  
fantastic double image,  
insistent wedding of opposites,  
her head a marvel of compression,  
half hidden frontal view becomes  
a cosmetic mask of sexual lure,  
evocation of astronomical rhythms.

## II

But it is otherwise with Dora Maar:  
Grimacing and swollen face,  
convulsive postures.  
weeping woman, cadaver,  
disfigured, monstrous;  
the macabre 1940 *Head of a Woman*;  
a skull grits its teeth in rage.

## III.

*Seated Woman:* Francoise's inquiring visage,  
fecund body, staring eyes, forcefully seated.  
*Woman-Flower:* blossoming form  
sheds its mass; her slim, oval  
body like the stalk and bloom of a sunflower.  
Her blue tonality injects a lunar coolness,  
counterpointing the woman as flower.  
reminding us of Picasso's conversation—and ours—  
with visible and invisible worlds.

