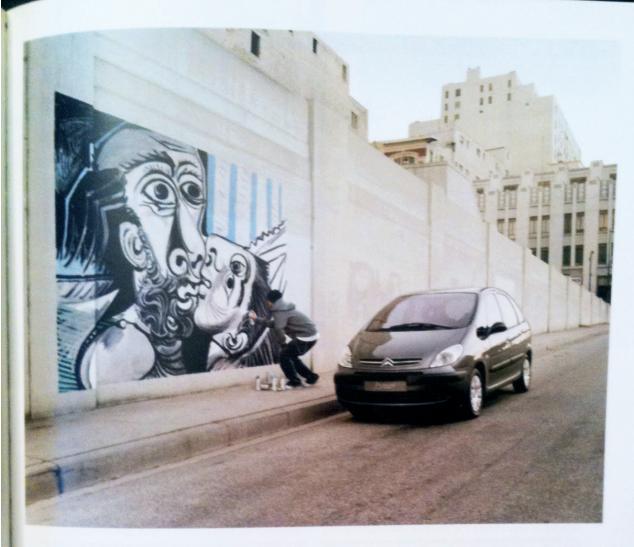


Michaël Sellam **Celebrity**

From the moment that art ceases to be food that feeds the best minds, the artist can use his talents to perform all the tricks of the intellectual charlatan. Most people can today no longer expect to receive consolation and exaltation from art. The refined, the rich, the professional do-nothings, the distillers of quintessence desire only the peculiar, the sensational, the eccentric, the scandalous in today's art. I myself, since the advent of Cubism, have fed these fellows what they wanted and satisfied these critics with all the ridiculous ideas that have passed through my mind. The less they understood them, the more they admired me. Through amusing myself with all these absurd farces, I became celebrated, and very rapidly. For a painter, celebrity means sales and consequent affluence. Today, as you know, I am celebrated, I am rich. But when I am alone, I do not have the effrontery to consider myself an artist at all, not in the grand old meaning of the word: Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt, Goya were great painters. I am only a public clown--a mountebank. I have understood my time and have exploited the imbecility, the vanity, the greed of my contemporaries. It is a bitter confession, this confession of mine, more painful than it may seem. But at least and at last it does have the merit of being honest.

Letter of Picasso to G. Papini, published in Rome for the review *Livro Nero*, 1952.

Michaël Sellam, Paris. Published in ESSE n°57, spring-summer 2006. http://www.michaelsellam.com



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The factors that at crosses to be fixed that feeds the best minds, the actor can use his takens to perform all the micks of the intellectual challents. Now people on tour a many control that the professional "de-acolings" the distillent of quantessioner desire only the procession, the secondaries in unique and in a large transfer of the professional "de-acolings" the distillent of quantessioner desire only the procession. The secondaries may be admined the secondaries that have passed through a many. The lass they sufficient what they wanted and statisfied these critics with all the relactivistic desires the laws passed through a many. The lass they sufficient that they passed through a many distinct of the procession of the procession of the secondaries and consequent alliances. Toke, to receive any passed through a mind of all, not in the great old meaning of the word. Goods, Trince, Receivered, they consider any old most and of last it does have the many of the state of length transition.

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