

Pierre Daura (Spanish, 1896–1976)

Daura with Cane and Brushes, 1970–1971

Oil

Gift of Martha Randolph Daura, 2003.026

Spanish born and Virginia based painter Pierre Daura was a prominent figure in the development of European modernism. He is known for his participation in the *Cercle et Carré*, which was a group of artists that promoted geometric construction rather than the irrational abstraction by the Surrealists. With his lifelong commitment to art, Daura once commented, "All I have ever wanted to do is to find a way to paint. I have painted. I have worked. I have given myself to my art. That is what I have wanted since my very early age... to be an artist, good or bad... that is what I am."

"When I look at the image, I see a sad old man with a cane over his arm, bathed in brilliant hues. What I feel, is the artist as I knew him as Uncle Pierre: kind, affectionate, humorous, overflowing with love for his wife and daughter and pride in her achievements, generous. He always had time for company. I remember the meals at table and the aromas of fresh-baked French bread. In my mind, I see only sparkling eyes and warm smiles."

—Louis Blair, nephew of Pierre Daura