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GRID FOR LEARNING

Picasso, the most famous 20th Century Spanish painter, died aged 91
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Picasso, giant of art, dies at 91

By JACKIE LEISHMAN

Pablo Picasso, the most influential artist of this century, died in the South of France yesterday. He was 91 and had been ill for some weeks.

A doctor called from the small village of Mougins, near Cannes, early in the morning said: "It was already too late when I arrived." The cause of death was given as lung congestion.

With Picasso when he died were Jacqueline, his third wife, whom he married in 1971, his oldest son, Paolo, his secretary, and several close friends. The Spanish-born artist had lived most of his working life in France. He left Spain at the time of the Civil War and vowed not to return until the restoration of the Spanish Republic.

"Guernica," his most famous work, which now hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New

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Picasso by Cecil Beaton. The drawing was made at Picasso's home in the South of France. The picture, also by Beaton, was taken in 1931, when the artist was 50.

York, was inspired by the bombing of the little Basque town of Guernica.

After the Second World War, Picasso made his major political gesture by declaring his allegiance to the Communist Party. He produced many anti-war pictures like Korean massacres and the two great panels, War and Peace. At the same time he designed the dove symbol, the famous dove of peace, for the Communist-led World Peace Congress in Paris in 1948.

Picasso's output was enormous — he sometimes painted up to seven canvasses a day — and it does not seem to have dwindled in the last few years. Major paintings of the latter years have been sold for up to £200,000, but his work took in also engravings, drawings, sculptures, and pottery.

It has been estimated that in his lifetime Picasso produced at least 14,000 paintings and drawings, 100,000 prints, 24,000 book illustrations, and 300 models and sculptures. His last three years' work represents more than the total works attributed to Michelangelo.

His personal fortune has been estimated at £22 millions in paintings and real estate.

News programmes on Spanish radio and television opened yesterday with the news of Picasso's death, but there was no official reaction to the announcement.