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***ON LONG-RUN PRICE COMOVEMENTS BETWEEN
PAINTINGS AND PRINTS***

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1 Introduction

The art market is the result of complex interactions, most of which can hardly be explained by economic theory. Signals such as the name of an artist, specificities of different media, reactions of art galleries, critics, museum directors and investors exert a large variety of influences on prices and values, which are difficult to model with accuracy.

It is however possible to address interesting questions, using sales prices as the basic information on values and relative scarcities. Indeed, if prices can be taken as synthesizing all the effects just mentioned, their dynamic interactions across artists and media may reveal some common patterns or, on the contrary, call attention to divergent behaviours. Both may turn out to be explainable by art history or aesthetical judgements. If so, further evidence would have been provided by a more quantitative analysis; otherwise, new directions for research could be opened.

In particular, if one accepts the idea of “a global market” for say, post-impressionist paintings, one may ask whether artists like Braque or Picasso lead or follow this global market. One may also examine whether prices of prints and paintings for a given artist follow a common pattern; if so, one may construct portfolios of prints, which are cheaper, more liquid and probably less risky than portfolios of paintings.

In this paper, we try to answer questions of this type, using the information contained in prints’ and paintings’ price indices for global markets and for some individual artists who have been active both as painters and as lithographers or etchers – Braque, Chagall, Ernst, Miró and Picasso.

The analysis is carried out by estimating vector autoregressive models, using the techniques developed by Johansen (1988, 1991) and Johansen and

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Juselius (1990, 1992). These methods make it possible

- (i) to estimate possible steady-state relations between prices and isolate long-run from short-run behaviour, and
- (ii) to test for exogenous behaviour in an error-correction model setting.

Though this methodology is known to many economists, it is much less widespread in the field of cultural economics.² Therefore, Section 2 is devoted to the basic framework and to the key concepts used in the paper.

Section 3 briefly discusses the construction of the price indices on which our study is based. In Section 4, we analyze three kinds of relationships:

- (i) between the market for paintings and the market for prints (Section 4.1);
- (ii) between each individual artist and the global market for prints (Section 4.2);
- (iii) between the print markets for the five artists (Section 4.3).

The discussion is kept informal, but the more technical details can be found in the Appendix. Section 5 concludes the paper.

In broad terms, we find that prices of prints and paintings have a common trend, but prints yield lower long-run returns. Relations between individual artists and the global market for prints vary from one artist to the next, but again, the series have common trends. Though each of the five artists is unique by himself, a separating line can be drawn between Braque-Ernst, and Chagall-Miró-Picasso. In particular, Picasso, as expected, plays a major role and Chagall, though being very connected to the others, behaves quite differently from them.

2 Cointegration and exogeneity

2.1 The error-correction model

Cointegration³ is loosely related to the concept of stationary linear combinations of nonstationary processes. Suppose that the interest lies in studying I nonstationary time series of prices $y_{i,t}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, I$, $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. Under certain conditions, it is possible to estimate the coefficients of the following

²See however Ginsburgh and Jeanfils (1995).

³In this section, we present an informal discussion of the key concepts that will be econometrically tested in this paper. The interested reader should go to the papers cited for a rigorous view on the subject. Chapters 2 and 3 in Urbain (1993) also provide a good insight on the issues.

system of equations:

$$\Delta y_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_{ij} z_{j,t-1} + \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^I \gamma_{ii',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{i0} + e_{i,t}, i = 1, 2, \dots, I. \quad (1)$$

One of the conditions is that the $\Delta y_{i,t}$ are stationary. The other is that the variables:

$$z_{j,t} = \sum_{i=1}^I \beta_{ij} y_{i,t}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, J \leq I - 1, \quad (2)$$

obtained as linear combinations of the original $y_{i,t}$ variables, are also stationary. These last equations are called “long-run” or “steady-state” relationships.

The parameters α_{ij} in (1) measure the speed at which deviations from the steady-state are corrected, so that the model is often referred to as an error correction mechanism (ECM). The vectors $(\beta_{1,j}, \beta_{2,j}, \dots, \beta_{I,j})$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, J$ are called cointegrating vectors.

The terms:

$$\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^I \gamma_{ii',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{i0} \quad (3)$$

describe the short-run dynamics. The number of lags (K) should be chosen in such a way that the error processes e_{it} , $i = 1, 2, \dots, I$, are Gaussian white noise.

Form (1) is fairly general and some special cases can readily be obtained; in particular, it may happen (a) that no cointegrating vectors exist, (b) that some or all of the α_{ij} coefficients are zero, (c) that some or all of the $\gamma_{ii',k}$ coefficients are zero. These special cases will be discussed in Section 2.2.

Note that the α_{ij} 's and the β_{ij} 's are undetermined up to scalar multiplication; this explains why system (1) can also be written as:

$$\Delta y_{i,t} = \sum_{i'=1}^I \pi_{ii'} y_{i',t} + \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^I \gamma_{ii',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{i0} + e_{i,t}, i = 1, 2, \dots, I, \quad (4)$$

where the so-called impact coefficients $\pi_{ii'}$ are now uniquely determined.

Note also that in the case of a two-variable system, there will exist at most one cointegrating relation which, after suitable renormalization, can be written as:

$$z_{1,t} = y_{1,t} - \beta y_{2,t}, \quad \beta > 0. \quad (5)$$

This implies that α_{11} should be negative and α_{21} positive. The reason is that, if in (5) $z_{1,t}$ is positive, $y_{1,t}$ is “higher” than its equilibrium value, so that the error-correction mechanism acts in lowering its next value and this entails $\alpha_{11} < 0$. A similar reasoning applies to α_{21} .

Estimating model (1) for price indices of painters or media, allows us to obtain an insight on the joint short-run dynamics of the series. As pointed out, the long-run or steady-state term, present in these equations, acts in correcting the short-run deviations back to the “ideal” long-run equilibrium. Finding cointegration, say between paintings and prints by a specific artist, is a nontrivial fact because it implies that, in the long-run, the price series do not diverge and also that their short-run variations are influenced by this long-run equilibrium. In other words, this means that the series have a common nonstationary movement, which is eliminated in the cointegrating relation.

2.2 Exogeneity and causality

The issues of exogeneity and causality often appear in econometric modelling involving several variables. Though intuitively simple, the concept of exogeneity can have different shades, as pointed out in the seminal paper by Engle et al. (1983). For our purposes, and in the context of model (1), a variable will be weakly exogenous for a set of parameters if, conditioning the model with respect to that variable, no useful sample information for inference on those parameters is lost.

In the case of the ECM-model, the concept has some fine connotations. Consider a given equation, say the first. It might happen that α_{11} is equal to zero; this would mean that the corresponding cointegration relationship $z_{1,t-1}$ does not play any role in explaining the behaviour of the (differenced) price index $y_{1,t}$. If all α_{1j} ’s are zero, we say that the behaviour of $y_{1,t}$ is weakly exogenous⁴ with respect to the long-run relationships and (1) can be written as:

$$\Delta y_{1,t} = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^I \gamma_{1i',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{10} + e_{1,t}. \quad (6)$$

As a result, the system can be separated into two subsystems. The first comprises the equations corresponding to the weakly exogenous variables, while the second is formed by the remaining ones. Making the link with the

⁴This idea has received a finer treatment by Mosconi and Gianini (1993), which will not be used in this paper.

informal definition of weak exogeneity stated above, as far as the long-run relationships are concerned, we can condition the second subsystem with respect to the first one, i.e. we can study the behaviour of the indices in the second subsystem for each “fixed” set of values of the weakly exogenous variables. Note that performing the reverse would be meaningless, as the variables of the second subsystem do not convey any long-run information to the ones in the first subsystem.

Contrary to exogeneity, the concept of causality builds on ideas from common language and philosophy. In our context, causality will be defined in the lines of Granger (1969): x_t will (Granger-)cause w_t if and only if the past of x_t influences w_t , but the opposite is not true. The “past” is here understood as the collection of lagged values of x_t , influences being measured in terms of linear regressions.

Weak exogeneity plus Granger causality makes for what Engle et al. (1983) suggested to call “strong exogeneity.” It is evident that a group of variables (here, price indices) may be weakly but not strongly exogenous. This is easily seen if one remembers that lagged differences of all the indices appear in principle in the short-run part of the equations in (1). For weakly exogenous variables to be strongly exogenous, it must be that the short-run behaviour of the other variables do not Granger-cause them, i.e. that they do not appear in their equations. For example, $y_{1,t}$ will be strongly exogenous, if the first equation of system (1) can be written as

$$\Delta y_{1,t} = \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{11,k} \Delta y_{1,t-k} + \gamma_{10} + e_{1,t}. \quad (7)$$

No other variable than the past of $y_{1,t}$ itself contributes in explaining $y_{1,t}$.

2.3 Efficiency and returns

If, in addition to exogeneity of say, $y_{1,t}$, we find that there is no influence of the short-run either, and that γ_{10} is not significantly different from zero, we are left with the following equation:

$$\Delta y_{1,t} = e_{1,t} \quad (8)$$

and the $\Delta y_{1,t}$ series is a random walk.

Given that $y_{1,t}$ is a price series, (8) means that the underlying market is “weakly efficient:” in the context of the model, no variable (contemporaneous

or past) has an influence on $y_{1,t}$ and the current price is the best forecast for next period's price.

In the case of a two-equations system, there is also an interesting financial interpretation of the long-run relation. Taking the expectation of the first-difference of (5), we have:

$$E\Delta y_{1,t} = \beta E\Delta y_{2,t}. \quad (9)$$

If the price series are expressed in logarithms, the differenced series represent returns, so that (9) gives a relationship between the two expected returns. If $\beta > 1$, (long-run) returns from $y_{1,t}$ are higher than those generated by $y_{2,t}$. Since riskier assets yield higher returns, $y_{1,t}$ should probably relate to an asset that is riskier than $y_{2,t}$. Note that if $\beta = 1$, the expected returns of the two assets are equal.

Finally, consider a two-equations ECM in which the first price series is weakly efficient, while in the second equation, the long-run term is present. This means that differences in the first series are merely white noise, while in the second, some short-term forecasting is possible. It is then reasonable to expect that the first asset should provide higher returns, since it is riskier than the second one. This hypothesis can be tested on the β coefficient, which should be larger than one.

3 The data

3.1 Principles of construction of the price indices

The price indices used in our calculations have been computed through hedonic regressions, as suggested in Chanel et al. (1992). One estimates the following equation:

$$p_{i,t} = \sum_{k=1}^m a_k x_{ik,t} + c(t) + \xi_{i,t}. \quad (10)$$

In this equation, $p_{i,t}$ is the (logarithm of the) price of a collectible i sold at time t , $x_{ik,t}$ is a time-variant idiosyncratic attribute of collectible (i, t) ; $c(t)$ is the market-wide price effect and $\xi_{i,t}$ is an error term. Model (10) can be given a convenient interpretation if one isolates in the right-hand side the time effect and the random error. The left-hand side can then be thought of as representing the price of a work i sold in t , freed from the implicit prices of its characteristics. This "characteristic-free price" is assumed to include the

effect of time and a random error only; by averaging the characteristic-free prices of all works i sold in t (or, equivalently, by regressing these prices on time dummies), one obtains the average price of a “standardized” work at time t . The specification of $c(t)$ considered in that case is:

$$c(t) = \sum_{t=\tau_0}^{\tau_T} \phi_t \delta_t, \quad (11)$$

where $[\tau_0, \tau_T]$ is the time interval over which observations are available; δ_t is a dummy variable which takes the value *one* if work i is sold in period $t \in [\tau_0, \tau_T]$, and *zero* otherwise; the ϕ_t ’s are parameters to be estimated. The sequence $[\phi_{\tau_0}, \phi_{\tau_1}, \dots, \phi_{\tau_T}]$ is used to construct the price (or the value) index y_t .

Most of the work carried out in order to compute returns on art, uses repeat sales regressions (i.e. regressions based on observations of collectibles sold at least twice) rather than hedonic regressions. The pros and cons of both methods are discussed in Chanel et al. (1992) and Ginsburgh (1994).⁵ Here, we merely note that it would be impossible to construct yearly (or half-yearly) indices using repeat sales only, since the number of resales for which prices are observed is quite limited.⁶

3.2 Original data available

The data used to calculate value indices are taken from Mayer’s *Annuaire des Ventes* (1963 to 1994). These yearbooks of public auctions are available since 1963 (sales of 1962); we thus cover the years 1962 to 1993. Two databases were compiled, one for paintings and one for prints. The first contains 25,073 sales for 84 well-known artists, selected in a fairly subjective way.⁷ The database for prints contains 10,028 sales for 25 artists.

In addition to global price indices based on the 84 and 25 artists respectively, we also constructed indices for five artists for whom the number of sales was large enough: Braque (359 paintings and 681 prints), Chagall (341 and 1,943), Ernst (435 and 280), Miró (288 and 1,708) and finally, Picasso (826 and 3,132).

In Mayer’s compendia, each sale is described by a certain number of characteristics (see below) and by a sale number, corresponding to a specific

⁵See also Goetzmann (1990, 1993).

⁶This is certainly the case for paintings, but much less so for prints. See Pesando (1993).

⁷For more details, see de la Barre et al. (1994).

auction describing the location and the date of the sale. It is therefore possible to construct semi-annual, quarterly or even monthly price indices. The relatively small number of sales⁸ made us opt for semi-annual indices, taking the years 1962 to 1966 as base period.

The characteristics of the artworks are different for paintings and for prints. Those that describe paintings are rather limited; beside the name of the artist (and the title of the painting), the yearbooks provide only a very rough description: the size of the work (height and width), the year in which it was painted, the medium used, the place of the sale (saleroom, country) and the year of sale. Such a simple description is however hardly comprehensive enough to explain the price differences between artists and one is necessarily led to include some measure of the reputé of the painter. We chose to work with dummy variables for artists.

The characteristics for prints are more numerous. Beside the name of the artist, the size of the work, the year of production, the medium used, the place of the sale (saleroom, country), and the year of the sale, Mayer provides information concerning the technique used (etching, lithography, etc.), the type of paper (Arches, Chine, etc.), the fact that the print is black and white or coloured, the signature, some specials (*épreuve d'essai*, *épreuve d'artiste*, etc.), the total number of copies and the number of the copy sold.⁹

Moreover, for the five individual artists considered and given that the year of production is (very often) available, it was possible to introduce dummy variables for the different "creation" periods (e.g. for Picasso, the "blue," the "pink," the "cubist" period, etc.), which are usually priced very differently.¹⁰

Prices are given in current French francs by Mayer, who uses the exchange rate prevailing during the day of the sale.

3.3 Indices constructed

The model we use combines (10) and (11) and is estimated on the full sample of sales and resales. Regressions were thus run for all artists together

⁸Especially for the period 1962-1972, during which there are sometimes less than ten observation per year for a given artist.

⁹See also Table 1, for more details.

¹⁰It is obviously difficult to define these periods (painters have seldom changed their style suddenly: changes occur gradually, and painters may also simultaneously paint in different styles) so that the indications given in the various art history books do not necessarily coincide. We have used Laclotte and Cuzin (1989). The authors are respectively Chairman and Chief Curator of the paintings department at the Musée du Louvre.

to obtain the “market” index as well as individually for Braque, Chagall, Ernst, Miró and Picasso. The indices are then deflated, using the French consumer price index. They are reproduced in Figure 1.

3.4 Overall quality of the regression results

We illustrate the results with two regressions for paintings and for prints, run on the full sample (these are the regressions used to obtain the “market indices”). As can be seen from Table 1, the fit is quite good in both cases. All the coefficients (with the exception of the “paper” medium for prints, which should probably be negative) have the expected sign.

4 Empirical results

The analysis is split into three parts. First, we look for cointegration between prices for prints and paintings for the market as a whole, as well as for each of the five artists individually. We then examine the market for prints only and test whether prices for each artist are cointegrated with the global price index. Finally, we construct a system of five equations (the price indices for the five artists’) for prints and investigate their relations. Before setting up these models, we tested whether (the logarithms of) the price series used are integrated of order one, so that their first differences are stationary. The results of these tests, given in Table A1 in the Appendix, indicate that all series, with the exception of the global indexes can be considered as integrated of order one, at the 5% level. The global indexes also show evidence of a single unit root at the 10% level.

4.1 Cointegration between prints and paintings

We investigate the conjecture that the markets for paintings and prints – both globally and for each artist individually – move together in the long-run. We estimate in each case the following two-equations system:

$$\Delta y_{i,t} = \alpha_i(\beta_1 y_{1,t-1} + \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}) + \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^2 \gamma_{ii',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{i0} + e_{i,t}, i = 1, 2 \quad (12)$$

where different values for K , the number of lags for short-run effects (including no lag at all), have been tried out and β_1 is normalised to unity.

Since only two variables are considered, there exists at most one cointegrating vector. The first and second equations concern paintings and prints,

Table 1 Some results from the hedonic regressions

Paintings			Prints		
Characteristic	Coefficient	St. dev.	Characteristic	Coefficient	St. dev.
Height	.01704	.00042	Height	.00925	.00061
Width	.00482	.00031	Width	.00116	.00030
Surface (x 100)	-.00400	.00030	Surface (x 100)	-.00030	.00060
Canvas	.00000	-	Etching	.00000	-
Collage	-.49946	.04203	Lithography	-.17682	.02071
			Silkscreen	-.40097	.09507
			Mixed techn.	.04434	.10077
			Arches	.00000	-
			Chine	-.18289	.13971
			Japon	-.19990	.05032
			Ord. paper	.09572	.10602
			Bl. and white	.00000	-
			Coloured	.18603	.02361
			No special	.00000	-
			Epr. d'essai	.07445	.34833
			Epr. d'artiste	.21308	.08293
			Bon à tirer	3.16567	.77890
			Hors commerce	.23987	.10018
			Total nb. of prints	-.00040	.00004
Artists	84 var.*		Artists	25 var.*	
Salerooms	24 var.*		Salerooms	24 var.*	
Semesters	54 var.*		Semesters	54 var.*	
R^2	.82		R^2	.72	
Nb. of obs.	25,073		Nb. of obs.	10,028	

* For obvious reasons, we do not give the coefficients here. F -tests have been run and show that the coefficients within groups (artists, salerooms and semesters) are not equal.

respectively. The results are summarized in Table A2 in the Appendix, where a more technical discussion can also be found. The main findings follow.

The global market

For the global market, i.e. the one represented by the price indices pooling together many artists, the fitted model is:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{1,t} &= e_{1,t} \\ \Delta y_{2,t} &= 0.37(y_{1,t-1} - 1.24y_{2,t-1}) + e_{2,t}.\end{aligned}$$

This shows that, with respect to prints, paintings are weakly efficient: their short-run returns follow a white noise process. Therefore, as expected, their long-run returns are almost 25% higher than those of prints. Short-run returns for prints are corrected by the cointegration relationship: whenever the price for prints is higher than 0.81 (i.e. $1/1.24$) times the price for paintings, the print index falls – on average – by 37% of the difference between $y_{1,t-1}$ and $1.24y_{2,t-1}$.

Individual artists

For individual artists, the results follow either of two patterns. In the case of Braque and Ernst, prices of paintings are also weakly exogenous, but short-run lags appear in both equations, so that weak efficiency of paintings does not apply.

For Chagall, Miró and Picasso – though no short-run lags were found to be significant –, no index is weakly exogenous with respect to the long-run relation. For Chagall, the model is:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{1,t} &= -0.35(y_{1,t-1} - y_{2,t-1}) + e_{1,t} \\ \Delta y_{2,t} &= 0.14(y_{1,t-1} - y_{2,t-1}) + e_{2,t}\end{aligned}$$

showing that long-run returns for prints and paintings are identical.

For Picasso, long-run returns for prints are even higher than for paintings, as shown by his equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{1,t} &= -0.39(y_{1,t-1} - 0.71y_{2,t-1}) + e_{1,t} \\ \Delta y_{2,t} &= 0.46(y_{1,t-1} - 0.71y_{2,t-1}) + e_{2,t}.\end{aligned}$$

This result is probably a consequence of the very high prices that are already obtained for Picasso's paintings.

4.2 Prints: cointegration between individual artists and the global market

Here, we are interested in the relations between prices of prints for individual artists and the print market as a whole. We estimate a system similar to (12), where now the first equation is related to the artist and the second to the global market. Detailed results are given in Table A3 in the Appendix.

In Braque's and Ernst's cases, the global market is weakly efficient. Prints by these two artists have a lower long-run return than the one given by a notional portfolio, identical to the one used to construct the global index. In the case of Braque, for example, the model is:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{1,t} &= -0.51(y_{1,t-1} - 0.87y_{2,t-1}) + e_{1,t}, \\ \Delta y_{2,t} &= e_{2,t}.\end{aligned}$$

For Chagall,¹¹ Miró and Picasso, the cointegrating relation influences the global index, and their long-run returns are higher than those of the index. Picasso's prints are weakly efficient, and the final model fitted for him is:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{1,t} &= e_{1,t}, \\ \Delta y_{2,t} &= 0.20(y_{1,t-1} - 1.39y_{2,t-1}) + e_{2,t}.\end{aligned}$$

Picasso prints can be thus considered as "leading" or "pushing" the market. Their long-run returns are 39% higher than those of the notional print portfolio. Moreover, if the global print index falls to levels below 1/1.39 times the Picasso prints index, global short-run returns will have a higher probability of being negative.

4.3 Prints: cointegration between individual artists

We now consider the system of five equations in which only prices of prints for the five artists appear. The order is Braque (subscript B), Chagall (C), Ernst (E), Miró (M) and Picasso (P). Given our previous findings, we assume that Picasso's prices are weakly exogenous and we set to zero the

¹¹ According to the λ_{max} -test, there is no cointegration at the 5% level.

$\alpha_{P,j}$ coefficients in Picasso's equation. We then try to determine:

- (i) who are the artists contributing to the long-run relationship(s) and who are the weakly exogenous ones;
- (ii) are there artists who are strongly exogenous;
- (iii) what is the most parsimonious model to describe the five artists' short-run behaviour.

A technical discussion is provided in the Appendix, together with Tables A4 and A5. The findings are as follows.

Chagall and Miró may be left out from the long-run cointegrating relationship. They thus follow long-run trends which are different from those of Braque, Ernst and Picasso. Therefore, it was interesting to check whether Chagall's and Miró's short-run lagged values could also be left out of the three other artists' equations. If so, this would indicate that neither the long-run nor the short-run of the former exerts any influence on the group of the latter, so that Braque, Ernst and Picasso would be strongly exogenous. However, this happens to be the case for Braque and Ernst, but not for Picasso, whose prices are partly explained by those of Miró.

The final, more parsimonious fitted model is:¹²

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_{B,t} &= -0.33z_{1,t} - 0.49z_{2,t} + e_{B,t} \\ \Delta y_{C,t} &= -0.17z_{1,t} + 0.06z_{2,t} - 0.58\Delta y_{C,t-1} + 0.26\Delta y_{M,t-1} + e_{C,t} \\ \Delta y_{E,t} &= 1.02z_{1,t} - 0.08z_{2,t} + e_{E,t} \\ \Delta y_{M,t} &= 0.05z_{1,t} - 0.26z_{2,t} + e_{M,t} \\ \Delta y_{P,t} &= -0.41\Delta y_{B,t-1} + 0.40\Delta y_{M,t-1} - 0.36\Delta y_{P,t} + e_{P,t}.\end{aligned}$$

5 Conclusions

The analyses performed reveal that the prices of the five artists studied behave differently. We first have Braque and Ernst, who show a "follow the market", more classical behaviour: the global prints index is, in both cases, weakly exogenous. The same holds if the global prints index is replaced by the paintings index of the artist.

The other three artists stand out as special individualities. For all three, the paintings and prints markets are interrelated. Chagall is perhaps the most singular case. The other four are strongly exogenous w.r.t. him, in the joint, five artists' prints model. Moreover, his index for prints is the only

¹²This parsimonious representation is based on the model of Table A5, dropping the short-run coefficient which are not significantly different from zero.

one that presents weaker evidence of being cointegrated (only at the 10% level) with the global index. Everything seems to indicate that Chagall has a very special market of his own, in which prints as well as paintings are equally rewarding in the long-run.

Picasso is, naturally, the other singularity. He alone seems to be weakly exogenous in the prints market. Indeed, his price index is weakly efficient with respect to the global index, and he is the artist whose prints generate higher long-run returns than his paintings.

Miro prints are interrelated with the market, and their formal interrelationship with those of Picasso seems to corroborate a well-known historical fact.

Finally, in financial terms, investing in prints the prices of which are weakly efficient would be a bad choice for speculators. These should go for prints whose price changes can be forecasted by exogenous variables which may signal – as fundamentals – the direction of the changes. On the other hand, the closer the indices are to efficiency, the higher is their (long-run) return (with respect to the other ones), given that they constitute riskier assets. As a consequence, buying prints by these artists is a good choice for long-run investors.

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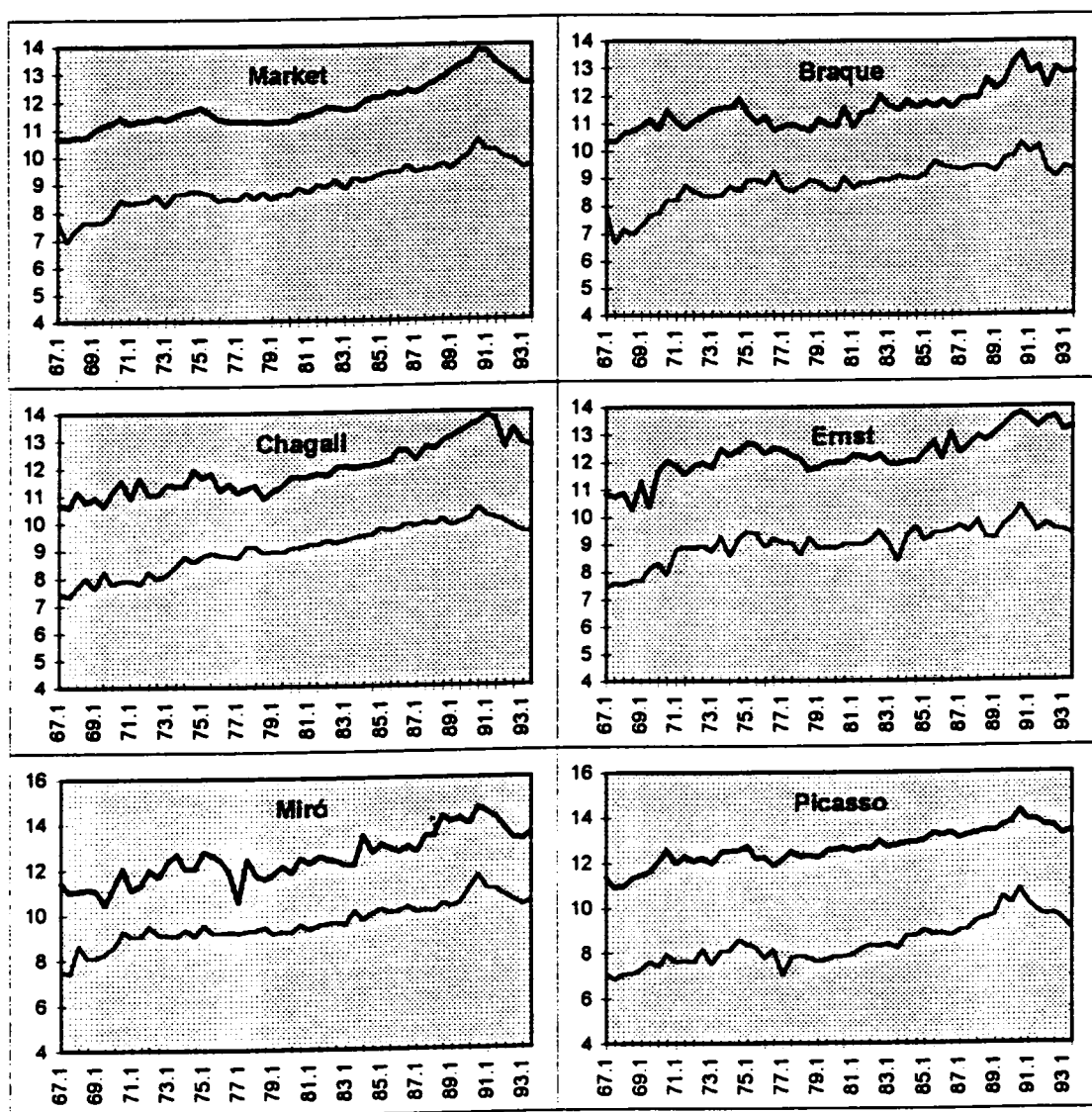


Figure 1 Deflated prices, in logarithms
(fat line: paintings; thin line: prints)

7 Appendix

7.1 Unit root testing

Table A1 presents the results for the augmented Dickey-Fuller and the Philipps-Perron tests. At the 5% probability level, the first test accepts the unit root null hypothesis in all cases, except for the global prints index. The second test rejects the null hypothesis in several cases. When applied to first-order differences, the Philipps-Perron test clearly rejects the second unit root in all cases; this root is however accepted for both global indices by the Dickey-Fuller test. At the 10% probability level, the unit root null hypothesis is accepted in all cases by the ADF test.

7.2 Relations between paintings and prints

Table A2 presents the results, which are now also briefly discussed.

Cointegration relationships. At the 5% probability level, cointegration is accepted by both tests in all cases. We may conclude that there exists a long-run relationship and that prices move together.

Number of short-run lags. The “optimal” number of lags is based both on the Jarque-Bera test and the existence of cointegration. As can be seen, K varies from one case to the other, but in four instances it is zero and the relationships are:

$$\Delta y_{i,t} = \alpha_i(\beta_1 y_{1,t-1} + \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}) + e_{i,t}, i = 1, 2.$$

Weak exogeneity of paintings. To check this hypothesis, we ran a test $H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0$. If this assumption is accepted, the equation for paintings can be written:

$$\Delta y_{1,t} = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^2 \gamma_{1i',k} \Delta y_{i',t-k} + \gamma_{10} + e_{1,t}.$$

The hypothesis is accepted for the market as a whole, for Braque and for Ernst. It is rejected in the case of Chagall, Miró and Picasso.

Error correction mechanisms. In order for the equations to represent error correction mechanisms, we must have $\alpha_1 \leq 0$ and $\alpha_2 \geq 0$. This is verified in all cases in which α_1 is significantly different from zero and means that, in

the short-run, any over- or undershooting of prices is corrected.

On the proportionality of comovements. If the hypothesis $H_0 : \beta_2 = -1$ is accepted, the ratio of prices is equal to unity and expected long-run returns are the same. This assumption is accepted only for Chagall. For the global market, as well as for Braque, Ernst and Miró, prints have smaller returns than paintings. Picasso, is an exception to this rule, and significantly so, since his β_2 is much smaller than one.¹³

Weak efficiency of the market for paintings. For the global market, (i) prices of paintings are weakly exogenous (i.e. $\alpha_1 = 0$) and (ii) there are no lags in the short-run part of the relation; moreover, $H_0 : \gamma_{10} = 0$ is accepted, so that the global market for paintings is weakly efficient.

Returns on prints vs. returns on paintings. For the global market as well as for Braque and Ernst, the equation for prints includes the error-correction term, while for paintings it does not, so that, as discussed in Section 2.3, prints should have a smaller return than paintings and this is actually the case. Prints also have a smaller return than paintings for Chagall and Miró, while for Picasso, the opposite is true.

7.3 Prints: relations between individual artists and the global market

Table A3 gives the results for the five pairs. Cointegration is rejected at the 5% level for Chagall by the λ_{max} -test, but accepted by the *Trace*-test. Cointegration is accepted at the same probability level for all other artists. For the remainder, the interpretation of the results can be made along the same lines as in section 7.2.

7.4 Cointegration between the five artists

As can be checked from the results of Table A4, both tests accept cointegration.

¹³Note that if $H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0$ is accepted, we run a joint test $H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0, \beta_2 = -1$; otherwise, we only run a test $\beta_2 = -1$.

The long-run relationship(s). The long-run cointegration relationships read:

$$z_{j,t} = \beta_{Bj}y_{B,t} + \beta_{Cj}y_{C,t} + \beta_{Ej}y_{E,t} + \beta_{Mj}y_{M,t} + \beta_{Pj}y_{P,t}, j = 1, 2, \dots, J,$$

with $J \leq 4$. Both the λ_{max} and the *Trace*-tests show that there are at most two cointegrating relations (at the 5% level), for $0 \leq K \leq 3$, where K is the number of short term lags. For $K = 4$, there is only one such relationship.

We are interested in relationships that are parsimonious, and contain a number of individual artists that is as small as possible. We tried all combinations excluding three artists from the above long-run relationship. As is seen from Table A4, the hypothesis is strongly rejected at the 5% probability level, whatever the number of lags in the short-run part of the relations. We then turned to test the exclusion of all possible couples of artists and found that, for $K = 1$, the hypothesis $\beta_{Cj} = \beta_{Mj} = 0$ could not be rejected at the usual 5% level.¹⁴

This leads to accepting the following two long-run relationships:

$$z_{1,t} = y_{B,t} - 1.32y_{E,t} + 0.04y_{P,t}$$

and

$$z_{2,t} = y_{B,t} + 0.09y_{E,t} - 0.59y_{P,t},$$

in which Chagall and Miró do not contribute to the long-run.

The short-run relationship(s). In Table A5, we give the short-run behaviour for $K = 1$. Recall that Picasso is assumed to be weakly exogenous from the start. Given that only Braque, Ernst and Picasso enter the long-run relations, we tested for strong exogeneity of these three artists. Table A5 shows the complete results for the short-run part (with $K = 1$). Though Chagall's and Miró's lagged price differences are not significant in the equations for Braque and Ernst – and for Miró himself – (as can be seen from the last column of Table A5, $H_0/\gamma_{iC,1} = \gamma_{iM,1} = 0$ is accepted), Miró's short run behaviour influences Picasso's – which is not too surprising, given the connection between their works. This means that the four other artists are strongly exogenous for Chagall.

¹⁴Note that when three artists are excluded, there can be at most one cointegration relationship, so that the χ^2 variable used to test the null hypothesis for exclusion of three artists has 3 d.f. When two artists are excluded, there may be one or two cointegrating relations, so that the χ^2 -test has 2 or 4 d.f.

Table A1 Unit root tests for the (logged) price series

	$H_0: I(1)$		$H_0: I(2)$	
	A.D.F.	P.P.	A.D.F.	P.P.
Paintings				
Global	-2.67	-3.78	-3.03	-35.55
Braque	-2.55	-22.81	-6.71	-78.31
Chagall	-1.91	-24.30	-6.35	-78.71
Ernst	-1.80	-22.98	-6.49	-80.81
Miró	-2.77	-31.34	-7.54	-73.24
Picasso	-3.45	-22.11	-4.52	-70.75
Prints				
Global	-3.76	-22.86	-3.43	-74.50
Braque	-2.31	18.36	-5.81	-68.46
Chagall	-0.95	-14.64	-6.44	-78.84
Ernst	-2.63	-26.49	-8.01	-74.12
Miró	-3.39	-26.95	-6.91	-73.71
Picasso	-1.70	-16.37	-4.56	-75.32
Crit. value	-3.50	-19.80	-3.50	-19.80

A.D.F. = augmented Dickey-Fuller; P.P. = Philipps-Perron.

All tests include a constant term and a time trend.

The critical values shown refer to the 5% probability level.

Table A2 Cointegration between paintings (Rel. 1) and prints (Rel. 2)

	Global	Braque	Chagall	Ernst	Miró	Picasso
Nb of lags	0	1	0	2	0	0
λ_{max} -test $r = 0$	15.57	14.65	15.57	14.06	28.08	25.28
<i>Trace</i> -test $r = 0$	16.91	15.42	17.87	16.80	22.94	16.27
$r \leq 1$	1.33	0.77	2.30	2.75	2.10	1.74
Parameters						
β_1	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
β_2	-1.24	-1.84	-1.08	-1.73	-1.25	-0.71
α_1	0.07	0.00	-0.35	-0.03	-0.65	-0.39
α_2	0.37	0.20	0.14	0.53	0.16	0.46
Hyp. tests (χ^2 val.)						
$H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0$	0.75	0.00	10.47	0.05	15.47	7.10
$H_0 : \alpha_2 = 0$	-	-	-	-	-	5.26
$H_0 : \beta_2 = -1$	-	-	0.24	-	4.89	11.48
$H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0; \beta_2 = -1$	6.21	7.40	-	11.01	-	-
Jarque-Bera (χ^2 val.)						
Rel. 1	2.94	0.43	1.82	0.16	0.39	0.88
Rel. 2	1.23	0.79	0.10	0.97	0.85	0.33

The critical values at the 5% probability level are:

14.04 for the λ_{max} -test and 15.20 and 3.96 for the *Trace*-test.

3.84 and 5.99 for the χ^2 -test with 1 and 2 d.f.

5.99 for the Jarque-Bera test (χ^2 with 2 d.f.).

Table A3 Cointegration between individual artists (Rel. 1)
and the global market (Rel. 2)

	Braque	Chagall	Ernst	Miró	Picasso
Nb of lags	0	0	0	0	0
λ_{max} -test $r = 0$	18.48	13.14	26.89	59.33	17.55
<i>Trace</i> -test $r = 0$	23.35	16.82	31.05	62.14	20.90
$r \leq 1$	4.87	3.69	4.16	2.81	3.35
Parameters					
β_1	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
β_2	-0.87	-1.22	-0.67	-1.11	-1.39
α_1	-0.51	-0.11	-0.82	-0.70	-0.23
α_2	-0.09	0.26	-0.08	0.46	0.20
Hyp. tests (χ^2 val.)					
$H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0$	-	-	-	-	1.90
$H_0 : \alpha_2 = 0$	0.41	6.47	0.42	9.77	4.05
$H_0 : \alpha_2 = 0; \beta_2 = -1$	3.44	-	11.50	-	12.74
$H_0 : \beta_2 = -1$	-	1.93	-	12.94	12.74
Jarque-Bera (χ^2 val.)					
Rel. 1	3.08	0.33	0.97	3.65	2.09
Rel. 2	1.03	1.32	1.21	0.71	0.54

The critical values at the 5% probability level are:
14.04 for the λ_{max} -test and 15.20 and 3.96 for the *Trace*-test.
3.84 and 5.99 for the χ^2 -test with 1 and 2 d.f.
5.99 for the Jarque-Bera test (χ^2 with 2 d.f.).

Table A4 Cointegration between the five individual artists
and exclusion tests for two and three artists

Nb of lags	0	1	2	3	4
<i>λ_{max}-test</i>					
$r = 0$ vs $r = 1$	47.00	51.96	43.31	44.11	43.58
$r \leq 1$ vs $r = 2$	30.15	30.52	35.70	33.54	21.17
$r \leq 2$ vs $r = 3$	17.10	15.91	9.58	19.52	9.76
$r \leq 3$ vs $r = 4$	7.05	4.89	5.86	6.18	1.62
<i>Trace-test</i>					
$r = 0$ vs $r = 1$	101.29	102.39	94.45	103.34	76.12
$r \leq 1$ vs $r = 2$	54.30	50.43	51.14	59.24	32.54
$r \leq 2$ vs $r = 3$	24.15	19.91	15.44	25.70	11.38
$r \leq 3$ vs $r = 4$	7.05	4.89	5.86	6.18	1.62
Excl. tests (χ^2 val.)					
$\beta_B = \beta_C = 0$	17.74	25.31	24.02	27.60	21.39
$\beta_B = \beta_E = 0$	44.48	47.66	45.06	41.36	14.01
$\beta_B = \beta_M = 0$	42.25	42.93	37.61	37.32	29.44
$\beta_C = \beta_E = 0$	30.08	36.88	38.55	34.43	21.52
$\beta_C = \beta_M = 0$	15.72	7.75	20.23	28.71	26.73
$\beta_E = \beta_M = 0$	52.13	50.81	40.84	37.91	32.62
$\beta_B = \beta_C = \beta_E = 0$	23.85	22.55	18.03	23.97	21.64
$\beta_B = \beta_E = \beta_M = 0$	23.01	19.32	9.96	19.40	29.44
$\beta_C = \beta_E = \beta_M = 0$	31.07	26.58	19.35	21.24	33.82
$\beta_B = \beta_E = \beta_M = 0$	39.49	46.09	36.04	27.65	37.16
Jarque-Bera (χ^2 val.)					
Rel. 1	0.64	0.35	0.11	2.87	11.79
Rel. 2	0.87	1.38	0.71	1.00	0.82
Rel. 3	0.58	0.69	1.52	2.75	4.89
Rel. 4	1.87	5.62	5.48	23.55	2.54
Rel. 5	1.86	0.44	0.61	0.74	0.26

The critical values at the 5% probability level are:
27.17, 20.78, 14.04 and 3.96 for the λ_{max} -test
47.18, 29.51, 15.20 and 3.96 for the *Trace*-test.
5.99, 7.81 and 9.49 for the χ^2 -test with 2, 3 and 4 d.f.
5.99 for the Jarque-Bera test (χ^2 with 2 d.f.).

Table A5 Cointegration between the five individual artists
Model coefficients ($K = 1$)

Relation	α_{i1}	α_{i2}	$\gamma_{iB,1}$	$\gamma_{iC,1}$	$\gamma_{iE,1}$	$\gamma_{iM,1}$	$\gamma_{iP,1}$	$H_0 : \gamma_{iC,1} = \gamma_{iM,1} = 0$
Braque	-0.33	-0.49	-0.02 (-0.15)	-0.19 (-1.06)	-0.23 (-1.86)	0.02 (0.17)	0.01 (0.10)	0.54
Chagall	-0.17	0.06	0.07 (0.06)	-0.58 (-4.29)	0.05 (0.55)	0.26 (2.67)	-0.02 (-1.79)	9.93
Ernst	1.02	-0.08	-0.11 (-0.52)	0.10 (0.43)	-0.12 (-0.69)	0.23 (1.30)	0.02 (0.15)	1.30
Miró	0.05	-0.26	-0.15 (-0.85)	-0.32 (-1.47)	0.08 (0.54)	0.16 (-1.04)	0.11 (0.80)	2.49
Picasso	0.00 (-)	0.00 (-)	-0.41 (-2.66)	0.11 (0.48)	0.03 (0.22)	0.40 (2.52)	-0.36 (-2.52)	4.19

t-statistics are given between brackets, under the coefficients.

The statistic in the last column is an F-variable with 2 and 45 d.f. Its critical value at 5% is 3.21.

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