

Having a famous surname has been a great motivator for a woman called dove, writes **Kellie Hush**.

FAMILY ties are tough things to break. Paloma Picasso is in Sydney this week with her blue Tiffany & Co hat on to launch her new collection. The trip is a whirlwind visit, yet one of her first stops was the Tim Olsen Gallery.

Paloma Picasso, the world-renowned jewellery designer, has a passion for contemporary art. She inherited it from her artist father, Pablo. So on her visit to Sydney it was John Olsen she wanted to meet most.

Upstairs at his son's Woollahra gallery, Olsen senior presented new and old works to Picasso and her husband, Dr Eric Thevenet.

Also there for the gathering were Olsen's children, the gallery owner, Tim, and his daughter, Louise, the jewellery designer of Dinosaur Designs fame. It was a good chance to compare notes.

Picasso, 61, who lives in Lausanne, said: "I was talking to Louise and I was very much able to relate to what she was saying—when you have a father who stands out so much you want to do your own thing because you know when you come out everyone will be watching..."

"When I was young, people talking about Picasso, it was like 'Ah! I don't want to be a part of it.' But so many people would die to have the family heritage that I have. And I have always said I was very lucky to have such a wonderful Christian name. My father gave it to me, and it means dove, for the peace dove. I was very fortunate to have something that was my own. It was something I could identify with."

Tim Olsen said the day had been full of serendipity for his



Making a splash ... John Olsen and Paloma Picasso meet for the first time at the Tim Olsen gallery in Woollahra. Photo: Fiona Morris

own family. His father had long admired the work of Pablo Picasso, though they had never met. Olsen senior had spent time as a student living in Majorca, returning later to the south of

Spain with his young family. "What's also funny is that my nickname for Louise when we were kids was Paloma," Olsen said. "I would say, 'Who do you think you are: Paloma?,' because

it was obvious Louise was a talented designer."

Picasso joined Tiffany & Co 30 years ago. Her new collection is inspired by Marrakesh, where she has a home.

"When I started doing jewellery I could not see a place in Paris where I wanted to sell my pieces. I did not want to sell it through galleries because that would put me

in my mother's and father's world... And what is nice about when you have come out on your own successfully, you are able to be much more easy-going about your heritage."