ASMODEUS (ASMODEA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: MURAL

SERIE: BLACK PAINTINGS (WALL PAINTING AND SKETCHES, CA.1820-1823) (13/14)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1820 - 1823
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	127 x 263 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil painting on plaster transferred to canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	01 Nov 2010 / 03 Oct 2023
INVENTARIO	404 (P00756)

HISTORIA

See *Leocadia*.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This work was situated on the first floor of the building on the right-hand wall next to the Procession of the *Holy Office (Paseo del Santo Oficio)*.

It is the most mysterious of the paintings located in the house. X-rays have confirmed that the two main figures in the paintings are superimposed on the landscape in the background, which features figures in the distance and an imposing mountain that can be linked to another depicted by Goya in a previous work. It is one of the better lit scenes, with the darkest section in the foreground where two figures who seem to be soldiers aim their guns diagonally towards the large crowd of people in the centre of the composition. The most striking figures are the two who are flying through the air. One is pointing towards the mountain in the distance while the other covers her face with a red cloak which stands out against the background. Moffit identified the pair of floating figures as the goddess Minerva transporting Prometheus to Mount Caucasus. Brugada's title, which might have come from Goya or someone in his family, refers to the female name of the biblical demon from the Book of Tobit responsible for the death of all men who married Sarah until the last of them, Tobias, managed to render the evil spirit harmless with the help of the Archangel Raphael.

Asmodeus as a flying demon served as inspiration for the work *The Lame Devil (El diablo cojuelo)* by Luis Vélez de Guevara in which this demon flies above the houses, snooping under people's roofs, and this story has also been suggested as providing a possible meaning for the painting. In any event, flying and travel are a common element of all the interpretations made of this work.

EXPOSICIONES

Pinturas Negras en la Exposición Universal de París
Palacio del Trocadero París 1878
from may 20th to November 10th 1878

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 298a

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 163

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
pp. 327-329, cat. 1620
1970
Office du livre

GUDIOL RICART, José
vol. I, p., cat.715
t. I
1970
Polígrafa

Goya's Black Paintings: Truth and Reason in Light and Liberty
MULLER, Priscilla
p 122-130
1984
Hispanic Society of America

Goya. 250 Aniversario
LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)
p.430-431
1996
Museo del Prado

Las pinturas negras de Goya, Alcobendas
BOZAL, Valeriano
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1997
T.F. Editores

Las Pinturas Negras de Goya
JUNQUERA, Paulina
p. 91-92
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ENLACES EXTERNOS