CANNIBALS CONTEMPLATING HUMAN REMAINS (CANÍBALES CONTEMPLANDO RESTOS HUMANOS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. VARIOUS SUBJECTS



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1798 - 1800
UBICACIÓN	Musée des Beaux- Arts et d' Archéologie de Besançon, Besançon, France
DIMENSIONES	32 x 47 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Óleo sobre madera
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie de Besançon
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	12 May 2010 / 15 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	382 (896.1.177)

HISTORIA

Both this work and its companion piece, *Cannibals Preparing their Victims*, belonged to the painter Jean François Gigoux (Besançon, 1806-Besançon, 1894), who bequeathed them to the Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie in his home town.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A cannibal sitting astride a rock holds up a human hand and a man's head like a pair of trophies. On the ground we can see more human remains, which the artist has drawn our attention to by means of energetic red brushstrokes. Meanwhile, other cannibals sat in front of and behind the central figure look on. The scene is set in a natural, rocky landscape, with the branch of a tree emerging from the darkness on the right-hand side.

Goya has painted the figures on that side of the central figure in an undefined manner, like some kind of living mass, from which no individual person clearly emerges. The faces of the figures are depicted in more detail but their features are primitive, almost simian in appearance. It is likely that the painter's intention was to highlight the barbarism of certain human actions, in this case the practice of cannibalism.

This work can be related to some of the prints in the Disasters of War series of etchings, such as no. 39, *Great deeds! With dead bodies!*, in which corpses and dismembered bodies have been hung from the branches of a tree.

For more information, see *Cannibals Preparing their Victims*.

EXPOSICIONES

Peintures de Goya des collections de France
Musée de l'Orangerie París 1938
cat. 15

Goya
Ministry of Foreing Affairs Burdeos 1951
organized by the Bordeaux City Hall, consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 16th to June 30th 1951
cat. 26

Goya
Prado National Museum Madrid 1951
July 1951
cat. 10

cat. 75

De Tiépolo à Goya
Galerie des Beaux-Arts Burdeos 1956
consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 7th to July 31st 1956
cat. 120

Goya and his times
The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963
cat. 66
cat. 104

Goya
Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen Mauritshuis The Hauge 1970
organized by Ministerio de Estado y Asuntos Culturales and Réunion des Musées Nationaux, July 4th to September 13th 1970. Exhibited also at the Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries, Paris, October 25th to December 7th 1970, consultant editors Jeannine Baticle and A. B. de Vries
cat. 24

Goya. El Capricho y la Invención. Cuadros de gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1993
from November 18th 1993 to February 15th 1994. Exhibited also at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, March 18th to June 12th 1994 and The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, July 16th to October 16th 1994, consultant editors Manuela B. Mena Marqués and Juliet Wilson-Bareau
cat. 83

Goya: Prophet der Moderne
Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005
from July 13th to October 3th 2005. Exhibitied also at the Kunsthistorischemuseum, Vienna, October 18th 2005 to January 8th 2006, consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués
cat. 33

Goya en tiempos de guerra
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008
consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués, from April 14th to July 13th 2008
cat. 25

Agen 2019
cat. 12

Goya
Basle 2021
p. 155

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p. 263, cat. 923

GUDIOL RICART, José
vol. I, pp. 322 y 323, cat. 476
t. I
1970

L'opera pittorica completa di Goya
ANGELIS, Rita de
p. 117, cat. 409

1970
Office du livre

Polígrafa

1974
Rizzoli

Goya. El capricho y la invención. Cuadros de gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas

MENA, Manuela B. y WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet (comisarias)
pp. 288, 289, 290 y 291 (il.), cat. 83
1993
Museo del Prado

Los mundos de Goya (1746-1828)

SUREDA PONS, Joan
il. p. 246
2008
Lunwerg

ENLACES EXTERNOS