ISABELLA DE BOURBON, QUEEN OF SPAIN, WIFE OF PHILIP IV (DOÑA ISABEL DE BORBÓN, REINA DE ESPAÑA, MUJER DE FELIPE IV)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: COPIES OF VELÁZQUEZ (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1778-1785) 4/17



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1778
DIMENSIONES	370 x 310 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Etching and drypoint
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	10 Nov 2010 / 06 Nov 2025
INVENTARIO	836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

Pintura de D. Diego Velázquez del tamaño del natural en el R.l Palacio de Madrid; dibujada y grabada por D. Francisco Goya, Pintor. Año 1778 (*"Painting by Don Diego Velázquez, life size, in the Royal Palace of Madrid; drawn and etched by Don Francisco Goya, Painter. 1778"* at the bottom of the etching).

HISTORIA

See *Philip III*.

There exists a state proof of this etching which was made before Goya applied the second etching, the drypoint and the lettering. It came from the Valentín Carderera Collection, and is now housed in the National Library.

Up to three different editions are known: the first made in black ink; the second in greyish-sepia ink; and the third in dark greyish-brown ink. Written in pencil on this third-edition print, in the lower right-hand corner, we see the word *Merelo*.

The work was announced in the *Gazeta de Madrid* of the 28th July 1778.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This portrait of Isabella de Bourbon on horseback belongs to the group of equestrian portraits from the Hall of Kingdoms at Buen Retiro Palace (1635, Prado Museum, Madrid). The queen is shown sitting on a horse, which is seen in profile as it marks time, its left leg raised. Most of the animal's body is covered by the queen's clothing: a silk bodice embroidered with stars and a huge walnut-coloured skirt - covered in gold embroidered motifs depicting the monarch's coat of arms and initials - which falls over the top of the horse's blanket. Her face, turned to look out at the viewer, is framed by a white gauze ruff. As in some of the other equestrian portraits made for the Hall of Kingdoms, in the background we see the mountains around Madrid, and it is just possible to make out some buildings in the lower left-hand corner.

Once again, just as he had done in the *Portrait of Margaret of Austria*, Goya leaves a sizeable patch of white in the middle of the queen's clothing and also does away with certain aspects of the landscape as it appears in the original work by Velázquez. In Goya's etching the trees which appear on the right-hand side of the painting have disappeared, as have the buildings which can just be made out on the left. The clouds have also been simplified in the print. The queen's face in Goya's etching is even more blank and inexpressive than in the Prado painting. The lines of the etching are weaker than those in the portrait of Philip IV, perhaps suggesting that this work was made prior to that of the king, and that it was made following similar criteria to those used in the equestrian portrait of Margaret of Austria.

The plate was etched in two stages: first, the drawing and a light initial bite were made; then, in the second phase, the plate was re-etched, following the retouches made in ink on an earlier proof. There are also some light touches of drypoint just below the horse's nose.

CONSERVACIÓN

The etching plate is conserved in the National Chalcography Museum (cat. 160). It came from the Fondo de Recuperación of 1948 (body created to recover works of art taken out of Spain during the Civil War).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 191

Goya und Velazquez: das königliche Portrait,
Städtische Galerie im Städelschen Kunstinstitut Frankfurt 1991
cat. 8-11

Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996
Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996
from November 21st 1996 to January 1997
cat. 2

Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996
from September 19th to December 15th 1996
cat. 80

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador
BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de
cat. 10
1918
Blass S.A.

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.
HARRIS, Tomás
cat. 8
1964
Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
cat. 94
1970
Office du livre

Dibujos y grabados de Goya sobre obras de Velázquez Goya
Goya
CAMÓN AZNAR, José
p. 269
100
1971

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 16
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
p. 31
2016
Norton Simon Museum

ENLACES EXTERNOS