

THEY SAY YES AND HOLD OUT THEIR HAND TO THE FIRST TO ARRIVE

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (2/85)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1797 - 1799

DIMENSIONES

215 x 150 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching and burnished aquatint

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

TITULAR

Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

09 Nov 2010 / 29 May 2024

INVENTARIO

836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

Yes pronounce and hand out to the first comer (at the bottom)

P.2 (in the upper right corner)

HISTORIA

See *Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, Painter*.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A young woman, whose face is covered with a black mask on the front and a dog or rat mask on the back, marries a man much older than herself. She offers him one hand, while hiding the other behind her body. Behind her, we see two old women with deformed faces and, in the background of the scene, various figures with exaggerated gestures attending the scene. High in the centre of the picture, although slightly offset towards the background, the painter has depicted a man wearing a hat with a caricatured, almost animal-like face.

The lines of the engraving have a deep bite and in the fine-grained aquatint varnish reserves have been made to obtain a greater contrast between the white of the simian profile of the woman behind the young woman and the girl's chest with the malicious expression of the bridegroom. The use of the burnisher favours the insinuation of the female forms beneath the dress.

Contemporary manuscripts explain this scene; the one in the Prado Museum states that this image represents "the ease with which many women lend themselves to marriage in the hope of living more freely in it", while the one in the National Library notes that "marriages are regularly performed blindly: the brides, trained by their parents, mask themselves and dress up to deceive the first man who arrives. This is a princess with a mask, who is then to be a bitch with her vassals, as indicated by the back of her face imitating a hairstyle: the foolish people applaud these liaisons; and behind comes praying a liar in priestly attire for the happiness of the nation". Finally, Ayala's manuscript states that with this image Goya "reprimands blind marriages, like those of princesses and chambermaids".

For this *Caprice*, Goya must have been inspired by some verses written by his learned friend Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos (Gijón, 1744-Puerto de Vega, Navia, 1811), the so-called satires *A Arnesto*, which were first published in *El censor* (1786). Alcinda, a young woman belonging to high society, marries the first suitor who presents himself to her, possibly with the intention of leaving home. The future husband is encouraged by the economic prosperity that this marriage will bring him. Goya has captured the part of Jovellanos's poem in which he says: "El sí pronuncian y la mano alargan/ Al primero que llega! What a lot of evils/ This damned blindness does not abort! In addition, in the background of the engraving are the characters attending the scene "Al pie del altar, y en el tumulto/ Brindis y vivas de la tornaboda" (At the foot of the altar, and in the tumult/ Toasts and cheers of the wedding). This marriage is celebrated with the imminent threat of infidelity, as Jovellanos points out: "El velo conyugal, y que corriendo/ Con la imprudente frente levantada. Va el adulterio de una casa a otra" (Adultery goes from one house to another). Betrayal is symbolised in the print by the double mask which, on the back, has the face of a dog or rat and alludes to the true character of the young woman who will find complicity in the deception in the woman with the simian face behind her. In Goyaesque iconography, the mask is often an element which, far from concealing, reveals the character's true identity and gives us an idea of her real personality.

The theme of unequal marriages or marriages of convenience is dealt with by Goya in other engravings in *The Caprices*, such as No. 14, *What a Sacrifice*, No. 57, *Filiation*, and No. 75, *There's No One to Untie Us*.

CONSERVACIÓN

The aquatint of the plate, which is preserved in the National Chalcography (no. 173), is somewhat weakened.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya, Gemälde

De grafiek van Goya

Goya, Das Zeitalter der

**Goya. Gemalde
Zeichnungen. Graphik.
Tapisserien**
Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953
from January 23th to April 12th
1953
cat. 194

**Goya. La década de Los
Caprichos**
Madrid 1992
organized by Real Academia de
Bellas Artes de San Fernando
sponsored by Fundación Central
Hispano, Madrid, consultant
editor Nigel Glendinnig. From
October 26th 1992 to January
10th 1993
cat. 9

**Francisco Goya. Capricci,
folle e disastri della
guerra**
San Donato Milanese 2000
Opere grafiche della Fondazione
Antonio Mazzotta
cat.2, p.16

Goya. Opera grafica
Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano
2006
exhibition celebrated from
December 16th 2006 to April 1st
2007
p.22

Goya: Order and disorder
Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014
p. 140

2022

De graterk van Goya
Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam
1970
from November 13th 1970 to
January 17th 1971
cat. 13

Francisco de Goya
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from
September 22nd to November
17th.
cat. 2, p.2

**Goya. La imagen de la
mujer**
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2001
from October 30th 2001 to
February 10th 2002. Exhibited
also at the National Gallery of Art,
Washington, March 10th to June
2nd 2002, consultant editor
Francisco Calvo Serraller
cat. 93

Goya et la modernité
Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March
16th 2014
cat. 130

Madrid 2017

**Goya. Das Zeitalter der
Revoluciones. Kunst um
1800 (1980 - 1981)**
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 22

**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. 8

**Goya e la tradizione
italiana**
Fondazione Magnani Rocca Mamiano di
Traversetolo (Parma) 2006
consultant editors Fred Licht and
Simona Tosini Pizzetti. From
September 9th to December 3th
2006
cat. 2, p.146

**Goya en Madrid. Cartones
para tapices 1775-1794**
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014
p. 152

Hamburg 2019
cat. 34

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lithographs, vol. I y II.**
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1964
Bruno Cassirer

**Goya. El capricho y la
invención. Cuadros de
gabinete, bocetos y
miniaturas**
MENA, Manuela B. y WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet
(comisarias)
pp.45-47, fig. 21
1993
Museo del Prado

**Goya, la imagen de la
mujer**
CALVO SERRALLER, Francisco (comisario)
p.90

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco
de Goya**
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p.176, cat. 454
1970
Office du livre

**Catálogo de las estampas
de Goya en la Biblioteca
Nacional**
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 89, p.74
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca
Nacional

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,
Wilfredo
p. 191
2013

**La década de los
Caprichos. Retratos 1792-
1804**
GLENDINNING, Nigel (Comisario)
cat. 9, p. 16
1992
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San
Fernando

**El libro de los caprichos:
dos siglos de
interpretaciones (1799-
1999). Catálogo de los
dibujos, pruebas de
estado, láminas de cobre
y estampas de la primera
edición**
BLAS BENITO, Javier, MATILLA RODRÍGUEZ,
José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel
pp.64-67
1999
Museo Nacional del Prado

**Goya en Madrid. Cartones
para tapices 1775-1794**
MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B. y MAURER,
Gudrun (comisarias)

2001
Museo Nacional del Prado y Fundación Amigos
del Museo del Prado

Goya: Order & Disorder
ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie
L. (comisarios)
p. 140
2014
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

TACK, Ifee and PISOT, Sandra
p. 244
2019
Hirmer

Pinacoteca de París

**Goya. In the Norton Simon
Museum**
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 42-75
2016
Norton Simon Museum

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN
MEDINA, Víctor
p. 29
2022
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación
de Badajoz

p. 152
2014
Museo Nacional del Prado

CALVO RUATA, José Ignacio, BORRÁS
GUALIS, Gonzalo M. and MARTÍNEZ
HERRANZ, Amparo
p. 172
2017
Gobierno de Aragón y Fundación Bancaria
Ibercaja

PALABRAS CLAVE

CAPRICCIO MATRIMONIO DE CONVENIENCIA MÁSCARA CARICATURA

ENLACES EXTERNOS