THE PICNIC (LA MERIENDA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: CARDBOARDS FOR TAPESTRIES: TYPES OF SPAIN (PAINTING, SKETCHES AND DRAWINGS, 1776-1778). DINING ROOM OF THE PRINCES OF ASTURIAS, PALACIO DEL PARDO (1/10)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1776
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	271 x 295 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	17 Nov 2009 / 14 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	211 (P00768)

HISTORIA

This work forms part of the series of ten cartoons of country themes for tapestries designed to decorate the dining hall of the Prince and Princess of Asturias in the palace of El Pardo. This one was delivered on 30 October 1776.

Around 1856 or 1857, the cartoon was moved from the Royal Tapestry Factory of Santa Bárbara to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870, it was taken to the Prado Museum under orders given on 18 January and 9 February.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This cartoon is "of my own invention" as Goya himself states in the invoice he delivered to the Royal Factory. He chose the composition, although he still had to take into account the tastes of the tapestry makers and the king, for which reason he always had to complete a preliminary sketch of the work, which would have to be approved before work on the cartoon could go ahead. Furthermore, in some of these cartoons it is still possible to see traces of Goya's doubts and his hesitation about how to resolve certain compositional problems, often leading him to resort to models created by Francisco Bayeu.

"Near the city" is how Goya describes this scene on the banks of the Manzanares river, where the figures are distributed across the different levels of terrain in order to create depth, in the same way as in the cartoon *Hunting Party*. The main group, forming a circle in the foreground, is made up of five majos (the character of the majismo appears here for the first time in the work of Goya, but in accordance with the demands of the commission rather than by any decision of Goya), and an orange-seller, with whom they are flirting. This is the start of a new genre within the strict court painting, the vitality of its pastoral themes recalling French painting from the same period. Of special interest is the still life in the foreground, around which the majos are positioned. The Hermitage of the Virgin of the Port is just visible in the background, to the right of the centre.

There exist two preparatory drawings showing studies of the majo who is smoking and the other seated majo. There was third, that no longer exists, which showed the three figures on the right of the composition.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya
Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977
from April 12th to June 30th 1977

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

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

Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014
p. 103

Goya: Order and disorder
Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014
cat. 56

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ENLACES EXTERNOS