CHICKEN FIGHTS (LAS GIGANTILLAS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: SEVEN CARTOONS FOR TAPESTRIES FOR THE KING'S OFFICE IN THE PALACE OF SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL (7/7)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1791 - 1792
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	137 x 104 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	27 Dec 2009 / 14 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	72 (P07112)

HISTORIA

See *The Wedding*.

Around 1856 or 1857, this cartoon was taken from the Royal Tapestry Factory to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870 the tapestry cartoons that were in the basements of the palace were moved to the Prado Museum, back then known as the Painting and Sculpture Museum.

It was then that six cartoons by Goya were discovered to be missing, including the one before us (see *Children with a Cart*). In 1913 this work was identified in a sale taking place in Paris, at the Galerie Marczell von Nemes. It was acquired by Baron Herzog, who gave it as a gift to Alphonso XIII, who in turn donated it to the Prado Museum, where it remains to this day.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The canvas shows some boys playing at climbing up on each other's shoulders. There are four children and one additional figure. The arrangement of the characters on the canvas follows the same pattern as in previous cartoons such as *The Parasol*, that is to say, a foreground with figures, a mound behind them, and more figures behind this obstacle, helping to create a sense of depth. A rural landscape occupies the background.

The balancing act of the children reminds the scholar Tomlinson of the moments of political instability that Spain was suffering following the French Revolution and its resulting oppression. Goya's contact with intellectuals did not go unnoticed in his works, and as such the heights to which these boys and the characters of other cartoons in the series climb only serve to remind us of the great fall that awaits them.

EXPOSICIONES

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. 12

Exposición de pintura española del Renacimiento a nuestros días
Tokyo 1976
exhibited also in Hiogo and Kitayushu
cat. 14

Goya
Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977
from April 12th to June 30th 1977
cat. 15

Pintura española de bodegones y floreros de 1600 a Goya
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1983
consultant editor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, November 1983 to January 1984
cat. 41

Goya
La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo Gargallo Zaragoza 1992
consultant editor Julián Gállego
cat. 21

Goya
Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994
consultant editors Juan J. Luna and Görel Cavalli-Björkman. From October 7th 1994 to January 8th 1995
cat. 15

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 56

Goya: Order and disorder
Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014
cat. 232

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LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)
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p. 217
2014
Museo Nacional del Prado

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ENLACES EXTERNOS