CARD PLAYERS (LOS JUGADORES DE NAIPES)

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 (8/10)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1777 - 1778
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	270 x 167 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	18 Nov 2009 / 21 Sep 2026
INVENTARIO	15 (P00775)

HISTORIA

See *The Kite*.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A group of men are playing a game of cards in which one of the players has an unfair advantage. The representation of cheating gamblers was not new - it appears in Italian and Spanish baroque painting - but never before had it been depicted in the setting that Goya chooses here: out in the open in the middle of the countryside.

The gazes of the figures are focused on the character of the majo on the left. The striking gold and red of his attire are picked out by the sunlight as it falls on him outside the shadow cast by the cape slung over a tree branch as an improvised awning. His accomplices give him signals so they might win their opponents' money. It appears that none of the other players have noticed the luxurious attire of the cardsharp.

Colour, light and shadow play a central role in this scene. Using vibrant and bold colours, Goya seeks contrast with thicker brushstrokes, along with a heightened expressiveness in the characters, whose faces are authentic individual portraits, far removed from the simple types that we find represented in previous cartoons.

Tomlinson interprets the coins and the cards depicted in this work as a symbol of the passing of time, habitual in *vanitas* iconography, as in the companion cartoon, *The Kite*.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 14

Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014
p. 119

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"Goya, cartonista de tapices"

A portrait of the artist

"Goya, pintor de la vida

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ENLACES EXTERNOS