

# WHAT'S THE FUSS?

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (65/82)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1820 - 1823

DIMENSIONES

180 x 221 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Aguafuerte, aguatinta bruñida y/o lavis, buril y  
bruñidor

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

22 Dec 2010 / 24 May 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

## HISTORIA

*See Sad forebodings of what is to come.*

The title of the print was handwritten by Goya on the first and only series known to us at the time of its production, which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Thus the title was subsequently engraved on the plate without any modification from Ceán Bermúdez's copy for the first edition of *Disasters of War* published by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid in 1863.

No preparatory drawing has survived.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The last sixteen prints in the series of *Los desastres de la guerra* constitute what is called in the original title of Ceán Bermúdez's album *Emphatic Caprices*. In them, through symbolism that is often difficult to decipher and almost hermetic, perhaps because of the harshness of its content, Goya openly criticises the regime of Ferdinand VII (San Lorenzo of El Escorial, 1784-Madrid, 1833), who reigned from 1813 until his death. To a certain extent, the critical sense of the emphatic *Caprichos* allows us to interpret them as a return to Goya's first great series, *Los Caprichos*, in which the Aragonese artist questioned many aspects of the politics and society of his time.

In the engraving in question, a soldier who is writing stops his work to watch two women, one dressed in white and the other in black, being harassed by two furious dogs. The women are shaking and placing their hands in their hair, which is blown by the wind. Behind these two female figures, Goya has recorded other people in a mist who seem to be queuing up behind them.

This is a rather dark print in which Goya used aquatint. He has etched the figures and created an important contrast between the light clothes of the woman in the centre and the darker clothes of the woman next to her.

There are various explanations for the meaning of this engraving. For Enrique Lafuente, print no. 65 is the transition between those reflecting the horrors of war and the emphatic caprices in which Goya criticises Spanish society and the political scene after the war. The women are holding their hands over their heads because, according to Lafuente, they are receiving the news of their ruin, decreed by the invader who took various measures to strip the population of their crops or their money and thus obtain support for the army.

Jesusa Vega relates the scene to the departure of the French from Madrid, provoked by the entry of General Wellington and his troops. She also points out that if we look closely at the following prints we can understand that Goya is referring to what happened on 27 May 1813 when the French finally left Madrid. He also explains that it is difficult to know which army this soldier belonged to, as the uniform he is wearing was worn by the French, although it was also characteristic of the Logroño militia.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in the National Chalcography (cat. 316).

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **De grafiek van Goya**

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam  
1970

from November 13th 1970 to  
January 17th 1971

cat. 85

##### **Francisco de Goya**

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from  
September 22nd to November  
17th.

cat. 65

##### **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. 155

##### **Goya artista de su tiempo y Goya artista único**

The National Museum of Western Art Tokyo  
1999

from December 1st to July 3th  
1999

p. 316

##### **Francisco Goya. Capricci, folle e disastri della guerra**

San Donato Milanese 2000

Opere grafiche della Fondazione  
Antonio Mazzotta

cat. 145

##### **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

## **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014

cat. 104

2022

### **BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

#### **Goya, grabador**

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

cat. 167

1918

Blass S.A.

#### **Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.**

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 185

1964

Bruno Cassirer

#### **Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1104

1970

Office du livre

#### **Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 280

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
Wilfredo

p. 152

2013

Pinacoteca de París

#### **Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 114-151

2016

Norton Simon Museum

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN

MEDINA, Víctor

p. 85

2022

Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación  
de Badajoz

### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**