

# THAT THE ROPE BREAKS

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

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



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1820 - 1823

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

145 x 203 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Sanguine on laid paper

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

04 Jan 2011 / 01 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

494 (D.3982)

## INSCRIPCIONES

32 (in the bottom left-hand corner)

## HISTORIA

See *Sad forebodings of what is to come*.

This drawing, like the set of preparatory drawings for the rest of the engravings in the series, was part of the Carderera collection and subsequently passed to the Prado National Museum, where it is now kept.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The sketch shows few modifications with respect to the print, although these are really important for the interpretation of the image. In it, the figure walking on the tightrope wears a papal tiara which has been removed from the print. This suggests that Goya was referring to Pope Pius VII and that, when he undertook the execution of the print, he decided to avoid this explicit allusion, which could have caused him quite a few problems.

He also kept one of the buildings in the background in the engraving, which in the preparatory drawing are several and are projected in depth. In this way he clears the space and concentrates the attention on the figure who is walking and balancing on the rope. In the preparatory drawing, the faces of those who are carefully observing the scene have not been outlined with the same precision as in the print.

## EXPOSICIONES

### **Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolutionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)**

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980  
cat. 62

### **Goya y la Constitución de 1812**

Museo Municipal de Madrid Madrid 1982  
organized by Madrid Town Hall,  
consultant editor José Manuel  
Pita Andrade. From December  
1982 to January 1983  
cat. 68

### **Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996  
from September 19th to  
December 15th 1996  
cat. 231

### **Goya en tiempos de guerra**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008  
consultant editor Manuela B.  
Mena Marqués, from April 14th  
to July 13th 2008  
cat. 117

Madrid 2019  
cat. 131

### **Goya**

Basle 2021  
p. 274

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

SÁNCHEZ CANTÓN, Francisco Javier  
n. 137  
1954  
Museo del Prado

### **Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
cat. 1129  
1970  
Office du livre

### **Dibujos de Goya, 2 vols**

GASSIER, Pierre  
cat. 225  
1975  
Noguer

### **El Libro de los Desastres de la Guerra**

BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José  
Manuel  
pp.8-9  
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Museo del Prado

MATILLA, José Manuel y MENA, Manuela B.  
(comisarios)  
pp. 210-211  
2019  
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[www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado](http://www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado)

## ENLACES EXTERNOS