WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT!

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (62/85)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1797 - 1799
DIMENSIONES	203 x 151 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Aguafuerte, aguatinta bruñida y buril
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	29 Dec 2010 / 29 May 2024
INVENTARIO	836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

Quien lo creyera! (at the bottom)

62. (in the upper right-hand corner)

HISTORIA

See *Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, Painter*.

A *preparatory drawing* of this engraving has survived.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Two naked witches engage in a fierce fight as they fall. Below them, a feline-looking monster awaits them, raising its sharp claws wide open. The scene takes place at night, in a mountainous space.

In the Ayala manuscript the following is written about this engraving: "Two old men given to lechery are devoured by monsters". In the manuscript of the Prado Museum, the print is commented on as follows: "See here a cruel quarrel over which is the witchier of the two: who would think that the petite and the frizzy would repel each other like this: friendship is the daughter of virtue; the wicked may be accomplices, but not friends".

According to Edith Helman, the source of inspiration for this engraving could be the first canto of *Paradise Lost* (1667) by John Milton (London, 1608-1674), translated by José Cadalso (Cádiz, 1741-Gibraltar, 1728) and by Gaspar Melchor Jovellanos (Gijón, 1744-Navia, 1811). It tells how the rebellious spirits, plunged from the region of heaven, fall into the immense abyss.

It is likely that Goya may have become acquainted with this type of text during his stay in the Cadiz house of Sebastián Martínez y Pérez (1747-1800), a collector of engravings and paintings and the owner of an important library. At that time Cadiz had flourishing commercial relations with England, which would also have implied cultural exchanges. It is also possible that the Aragonese painter consulted this work in the library of the Duke and Duchess of Osuna, for whom he executed a *series of paintings* depicting scenes of witchcraft.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is preserved in the National Chalcography (no. 233).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen. Graphik. Tapisserien
Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953
from January 23th to April 12th 1953
cat. 246

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 39

Goya. La década de Los Caprichos
Madrid 1992
organized by Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando sponsored by Fundación Central Hispano, Madrid, consultant editor Nigel Glendinnig. From October 26th 1992 to January 10th 1993
cat. 173

Francisco de Goya
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.
cat. 62, p.89

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. 68

Goya e la tradizione italiana
Fondazione Magnani Rocca Mamiano di Traversetolo (Parma) 2006
consultant editors Fred Licht and Simona Tosini Pizzetti. From September 9th to December 3th 2006
cat. 62, p.161

Goya. Opera grafica
Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano 2006
exhibition celebrated from December 16th 2006 to April 1st 2007
p.40

Goya luces y sombras
CaixaForum Barcelona 2012
consultant editors José Manuel Matilla and Manuela B. Marqués. From March 16th to June 24th 2012
cat. 38

Goya et la modernité
Pinacothèque de Paris París 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014
cat. 136

London 2015
cat. 28

2022

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HARRIS, Tomás
pp.139, cat. 97

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p.183, cat. 575

Goya, la década de los caprichos: dibujos y aguafuertes
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

1964
Bruno Cassirer

1970
Office du livre

p.106, cat. 152
1992
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
p.106, cat. 152
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

El libro de los caprichos: dos siglos de interpretaciones (1799-1999). Catálogo de los dibujos, pruebas de estado, láminas de cobre y estampas de la primera edición
BLAS BENITO, Javier, MATILLA RODRÍGUEZ, José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel
pp.318-321
1999
Museo Nacional del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo
p. 197
2013
Pinacoteca de París

WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet y BUCK, Stephanie (eds.)
p. 137
2015
The Courtauld Gallery

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 42-75
2016
Norton Simon Museum

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN MEDINA, Víctor
p. 47
2022
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación de Badajoz

PALABRAS CLAVE

BRUJAS VUELOS EXPULSIÓN DEL PARAÍSO CAPRICCIO

ENLACES EXTERNOS