UNHAPPY MOTHER! (MADRE INFELIZ!)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (50/82)

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1812 - 1815
DIMENSIONES	157 x 206 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Etching, burnished aquatint and drypoint
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	15 Dec 2010 / 24 May 2023
INVENTARIO	836 225

HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass.*

The title was handwritten on the print by Goya in the first and only series that is known to have been printed at the time the works were created, which the artist gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Therefore, the title was etched into the plate at a later date and left unchanged as of the first edition of the *Disasters of War* printed by the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1863, after the printing of the series in the possession of Ceán Bermúdez.

There is a surviving *preparatory drawing* for this print which is housed in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Two men are shown carrying the body of a woman who may have fainted from hunger. Next to these figures a child cries inconsolably, covering her face with her hands. In the background we can see a body on the ground, perhaps the corpse of a victim of the famine.

Goya uses aquatint for the sky and part of the ground: it is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins. The device creates an unreal, misty setting that heightens the drama of the scene. There are no spatial references in the work, although judging from the darkness it is likely that the scene takes place at night. The artist has placed three points of light in the middle of this darkness: one larger, light area in the centre of the composition comprising the men carrying the woman; another smaller one situated on the right, representing the small child crying, separated from her mother; and the last area of light in the background on the right, highlighting the abandoned corpse.

CONSERVACIÓN

La plancha se conserva en la Calcografía Nacional (cat. 301).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya
Ministry of Foreing Affairs Burdeos 1951
organized by the Bordeaux City Hall, consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 16th to June 30th 1951
p. 73, cat. 8

Goya. Drawings, Etchings and Lithographs
Goya. Drawings London 1954
from June 12th to July 25th 1954
pp. 8-10, cat. 64

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
cat. 91

Francisco de Goya
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.
p. 167, cat. 50

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. 134

Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra
San Donato Milanese 2000
Opere grafiche della Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta
cat. 130

Goya. Opera grafica
Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano 2006
exhibition celebrated from December 16th 2006 to April 1st 2007
p. 76

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. 109

Goya et la modernité
Pinacothèque de Paris París 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014
cat. 89

Madrid 2017

Hamburg 2019
cat. 104

2022

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador
BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de
cat. 152
1918
Blass S.A.

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.
HARRIS, Tomás
cat. 170
1964
Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
cat. 1074
1970
Office du livre

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 259
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

El Libro de los Desastres de la Guerra
BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José Manuel
II, pp. 98-100
2000
Museo del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo
p. 144
2013
Pinacoteca de París

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

CALVO RUATA, José Ignacio, BORRÁS GUALIS, Gonzalo M. and MARTÍNEZ HERRANZ,

Amparo

TACK, Ifee and PISOT, Sandra
p. 313
2019

pp. 114-151
2016
Norton Simon Museum

p. 245
2017
Gobierno de Aragón y Fundación Bancaria Ibercaja

Hirmer

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN MEDINA, Víctor
p. 71
2022
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación de Badajoz

ENLACES EXTERNOS