COUNTRY PICNIC (MERIENDA CAMPESTRE) (SKETCH)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: TAPESTRY CARTOONS:COUNTRY SCENES (PAINTING AND SKETCHES, 1788) (4/6)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1788
UBICACIÓN	The National Gallery, London, United Kingdom
DIMENSIONES	41.3 x 25.8 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	The National Gallery
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	20 Dec 2009 / 14 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	157 (1961.9.74)

HISTORIA

The tapestry cartoon for which this sketch was made was never in fact painted. It formed part of the series that would have decorated the bedroom of the Infantas, a commission that Goya received towards the end of 1787 (see *Blind Man's Buff*).

The sketch was acquired from the artist by the Duke and Duchess of Osuna in 1798 and it remained in the cabinet that the Duchess had in La Alameda until it was sold at the time of the bankruptcy of the ducal household in 1896, when it was bought by the National Gallery, London.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Five men and two women are enjoying a picnic in the countryside. Behind them, a number of leafy trees close off the composition, making the horizon all but invisible to us and squeezing the figures into a crowded foreground. The *majos* are depicted in a number of different poses. The one in the centre directs his clearly lascivious, desirous gaze at the woman on the left, whilst the man on the right-hand side stretches out on the ground, probably in an advanced state of inebriation. The other men talk with the second woman, who is hidden behind them.

The dimensions of this sketch correspond with those of the third of the stretchers that appear in the invoice delivered by the carpenter Serrano. In the catalogue of objects put up for sale by the Duke and Duchess of Osuna, there is mention of a scene depicting a country picnic.

Yriarte had the opportunity to view the work in the Osuna residence in La Alameda, together with the sketches for *Spring*, *Summer* and *Winter*, which we know thanks to the description he gave of the piece, in which he praises it as "an authentic Spanish Watteau". Given that Yriarte had overlooked the sketch for *Autumn*, supposing that it was a small painting that the Goupil brothers had bought from Ángel Tadei, Arnaiz suggests that this sketch could be that of *Autumn*, justifying this hypothesis by pointing out the ochre hues and the presence of wine - the symbol of the September harvest - at the centre of the composition. What's more, this same writer states that it was very unlikely that the Osunas would have sold *Autumn* by itself and before the bankruptcy of the ducal household.

But if this hypothesis were correct and this painting were actually Autumn, a corresponding tapestry would have been made, and the cartoon sketch *The Grape Harvest* - which was made into a tapestry - would be the missing one.

Elsewhere, Tomlinson is of the opinion that the subject matter of this painting is not worthy of forming part of the décor of a royal bedchamber, and that the composition does not follow the pattern of open landscapes that Goya was employing throughout this series. The American writer links *Country Picnic* with another small painting, that of *Stagecoach Hijacking*, which also belonged to the Osunas, and puts forward the idea that Goya painted it specifically for them, in order to complement the works they had acquired from the painter in 1798.

CONSERVACIÓN

An additional strip has been added around the four edges of the canvas.

Cleaned and restored in 1987.

EXPOSICIONES

El Greco to Goya. The taste for Spanish paintings in Britain and Ireland
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consultant editor Alan Braham. From September 16th to November 29th 1981
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Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1993
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cat. 27

Francisco de Goya: Maleri, Tegning, Grafikk
Nasjonalgalleriet Oslo 1996
from 10th to April 14th 1996
cat. 9

Goya. La imagen de la mujer
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2001
from October 30th 2001 to February 10th 2002. Exhibitied also at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, March 10th to June 2nd 2002, consultant editor Francisco Calvo Serraller
cat. 11

Goya: Prophet der Moderne
Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005
from July 13th to October 3th 2005. Exhibitied also at the Kunsthistorischemuseum, Vienna, October 18th 2005 to January 8th 2006, consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués
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TOMLINSON, Janis A.
pp. 236, 237 y p. 238 (il.)
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"Ensayos de Arte Cátedra"

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1994
Real Academia de Nobles y Bellas Artes de San Luis

Salas del Palacio Real de El Pardo para las que se tejieron tapices sobre cartones de Francisco de Goya: identificación de las habitaciones y ajuste de las obras de Goya en los alzados de las paredes
in HERRERO CARRETERO, Concha (curator, Tapices y cartones de Goya (catalogue of the exhibition organizated at the Palacio Real de Madrid, from may to june 1996)
SANCHO, José Luis
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1996
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ENLACES EXTERNOS

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