

# THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS (SIEMPRE SUCEDE)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (8/82)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1814 - 1820

DIMENSIONES

177 x 219 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching, aquatint and burin

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

28 Nov 2010 / 24 May 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

## HISTORIA

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

There exist two state proofs of this print, one before the numbering and the drypoint work was added, and the other with the number etched on to the plate and some touches of light added in drypoint to the saddle of the horse, in the background on the left-hand side.

The title was handwritten by Goya on the first and only print run that we know to have been made at the time, and which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. The title was engraved on to the copperplate at a later date, and no other modifications were made to the

image for the first edition of the Disasters of War, which was printed by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, Madrid, in 1863.

There is a *preparatory drawing* in the Prado Museum

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This always happens depicts either a charge or a retreat by dragoons of the French Imperial Guard. This was the name given to those soldiers who, from the second half of the 16th century to the beginning of the 19th, fought in the cavalry, normally on the offensive, and as defensive infantry.

In the foreground, Goya shows a fallen horse and its rider, who is largely hidden by the animal, with only one hand and a leg visible to the viewer. In the middle ground several other riders flee on horseback. It is likely that in this print the artist has created a generic representation of the way in which the French soldiers passed through the Spanish cities, since it seems that they did so at full gallop, using the element of surprise.

The action in the scene is concentrated in the centre of the composition, framed by the white of the untouched paper. The horses and their riders, galloping at great speed, have been rendered using etched horizontal lines, packed very tightly together. On the other hand, Goya has left large areas of white on the body of the fallen horse, drawing our eye to it. This is a dynamic, energetic image, thanks chiefly to the diagonal lines of the falling animal and rider and to the quick continuous horizontal strokes, somewhat longer than is usual in these prints, which have been used to depict the rest of the horses.

Eleanor Sayre has established a relationship between this etching and the prints belonging to the third part of the *Disasters of War* series, the *Emphatic Caprices*, by virtue of the way in which Goya works in these images. The horse shown here in *This always happens* displays strong similarities to the animal in print no. 78, *He defends himself well*. The two depictions represent the same animal in two utterly different postures: in the first print, the horse is falling helplessly; whilst in the second it has become an animal full of energy, lashing out and defending itself with virulence. Both animals occupy the centre of their respective compositions - a large white shape in the middle of each etching.

The present print is one of the most complex in the series and is difficult to connect to the others in this first part of the *Disasters of War*. It is just as challenging a task to make sense of the image using the title that Goya has given it. Perhaps it is a metaphor for the defeat that always comes in the end, inexorably, just when it is least expected, as symbolized here by the falling of the horse.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The etching plate is conserved in the National Chalcography Museum (cat. 259)

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bordeaux 1951  
organized by the Bordeaux City  
Hall, consultant editor Gilberte  
Martin-Méry. From May 16th to  
June 30th 1951

cat. 5

##### **Goya and his times**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963  
cat. 66  
cat. 232

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

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996  
exhibition celebrated from  
September 22nd to November  
17th.

cat. 8

##### **Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996**

Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996

##### **Goya's Realism**

Statens Museum for Kunst Copenhagen 2000  
from February 11th to May 7th  
2000

cat. 25

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

San Donato Milanese 2000  
Opere grafiche della Fondazione

from November 21st 1996 to  
January 1997

*cat. 150*

### **Goya. Opera grafica**

Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano  
2006

exhibition celebrated from  
December 16th 2006 to April 1st  
2007

*p. 55*

Antonio Mazzotta

*cat. 88*

### **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014

*cat.47*

## **BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

### **Goya, grabador**

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

cat. 110

1918

Blass S.A.

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

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 128

1964

Bruno Cassirer

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

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1003

1970

Office du livre

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

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 193

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,

Wilfredo

p. 123

2013

Pinacoteca de París

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

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 114-151

2016

Norton Simon Museum

## **ENLACES EXTERNOS**