

BOY WITH A BIRD (EL MUCHACHO DEL PÁJARO)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: TAPESTRY CARTONS: POPULAR SUBJECTS (PAINTING, DRAWING AND SKETCHES, 1778-1780). ANTE-BEDROOM OF THE PRINCES OF ASTURIAS, PALACE OF EL PARDO (8/13)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1779 - 1780
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	262 x 40 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	29 Nov 2009 / 14 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	31 (P00790)

HISTORIA

See *The Blind Guitarist*.

This cartoon was delivered to the Royal Tapestry Factory on 24 January 1780, along with ten

other cartoons, completing the decoration of the antechamber to the bedroom. These eleven tapestry cartoons - almost certain to have been made between 21 July 1779, when the artist delivered *A Stickball Game* and *The Swing*, and this delivery in January 1780 - were executed very rapidly. It is very likely that Goya was aware of the planned suspension of manufacturing work at the factory and was anxious to finish his commissions and receive his wages.

Around 1856 or 1857, the cartoon was moved from the Royal Tapestry Factory of Santa Bárbara to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870, it was taken to the Prado Museum under orders given on 18 January and 9 February.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This narrow corner-piece decorated the north wall of the bedroom antechamber, where it formed a pair with another corner-piece, *Boy and a Tree*.

Out of the whole series, this piece and its companion were the cheapest, costing 500 reales each. The secondary nature of the scenes has meant that little attention has been paid to them, but the effort required of Goya to adapt the composition to such a long, narrow format is well deserving of further mention. To solve this problem, he made clever use of the tree, which he has occupying the entire height of the cartoon. At its foot, a boy plays with a bird.

The hunting of small birds was related to the hunt for love. Some prints and theatrical farces from the period employ the metaphor of the decoy and traps in the seduction of suitors, and this is also what Tomlinson sees here, considering the boy to be a representation of an angelic Cupid.

Nordström, on the other hand, believes that this piece, its companion corner-piece, *The Washerwomen*, and *The Woodcutters* are all related to springtime and impulsiveness.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.
From March 29th to June 2nd
1996
cat. 30

Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014
p. 210

Zaragoza 2017
cat. 16

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Tapices de Goya
SAMBRICIO, Valentín de
pp. 116, 239, cat. 34 y lám. 131
1946
Patrimonio Nacional

GUDIOL RICART, José
vol. I, p. 249, cat. 91
t. I
1970
Polígrafa

Francisco de Goya, cartones y tapices
ARNAIZ, José Manuel
pp. 108, 151, 279, cat. 38C y p. 151 (il.)
1987
Espasa Calpe
col. "Espasa Arte"

Salas del Palacio Real de El Pardo para las que se

L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols
DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier
vol. I, p. 85, cat. 26
1928-1950

L'opera pittorica completa di Goya
ANGELIS, Rita de
pp. 95-96, cat. 95
1974
Rizzoli

Francisco de Goya. Los cartones para tapices y los comienzos de su carrera en la corte de Madrid
TOMLINSON, Janis A.
pp. 147-153 y p. 148 (il.)
1987
Cátedra
col. "Ensayos de Arte Cátedra"

Goya en Madrid. Cartones

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
pp. 76, 98, cat. 137
1970
Office du livre

Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.
CAMÓN AZNAR, José
vol. I, p. 114
1980-1982
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

Goya. 250 Aniversario
LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)
p. 310, cat. 30 y p. 105 (il.)
1996
Museo del Prado

MENA, Manuela B., MAURER, Gudrun and ALBARRÁN MARTÍN, Virginia

**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 organized at the Palacio Real de
Madrid, from may to june 1996)

SANCHO, José Luis

p. 169 (il.)

1996

Patrimonio Nacional, Goya 96, Lunweg

www.museodelprado.es

para tapices 1775-1794

MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B. y MAURER,
Gudrun (comisarias)

p. 210

2014

Museo Nacional del Prado

p. 69

2018

Fundación bancaria "la Caixa" y Museo Nacional
del Prado

ENLACES EXTERNOS