

# FRANCISCO DEL MAZO

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



## DATOS GENERALES

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CRONOLOGÍA                           | Ca. 1815                    |
| UBICACIÓN                            | Musée Goya, Castres, France |
| DIMENSIONES                          | 90 x 71 cm                  |
| TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE                    | Oil on canvas               |
| RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA | Documented work             |
| TITULAR                              | Musée Goya, Castres         |
| FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN          | 14 Apr 2010 / 16 Jun 2023   |
| INVENTARIO                           | 130 (894-5-3)               |

## INSCRIPCIONES

*A Dn Fra.co del Mazo / Calle SANTAN / DER Madrid* ("To Don Francisco del Mazo, Calle Santander" (in red), "Madrid", on the letter in the subject's right hand).

## HISTORIA

The painter Marcel Bruguiboul, who had studied in Spain, bought this piece by Goya in Madrid, together with two others, also by the artist: *The Junta of the Philippines* and *Self-Portrait wearing Glasses*. His son, Pierre Bruguiboul, bequeathed these paintings, together with other pieces from his collection, to the Goya Museum in Castres in 1893-94.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Francisco del Mazo (Peñilla de Cayón, Santander, 1772-?) was the cousin of Manuel García de la Prada, a collector of Goya's work, theatre aficionado, friend of Moratín and a member of Goya's circle of friends, and also a sitter for one of the artist's paintings. It appears that Francisco lived for several years with his uncle, aunt and cousin in Madrid, where he met Goya. Moreover, he was "agente de casa" to the Duchess of Alba, providing another connection to the artist. Both he and his cousin were art lovers, although his professional career was in finance and he was a member of the Governing Board of the Bank of San Carlos. Francisco del Mazo also held the post of "Chief Bailiff of the Inquisition of Logroño", which makes it unlikely that his ties to Goya, who was

opposed to the activities of the inquisition, went beyond the contact necessary for the realization of this portrait. Even his cousin, who was connected to the government of Bonaparte, was forced into exile whilst Del Mazo held his post after the return of Ferdinand VII. According to Nigel Glendinning, Goya must have painted this work for money rather than due to any friendship between the artist and his client, despite any connections they may have shared.

This painting forms part of a series of portraits of art-loving traders and bourgeois. Francisco del Mazo is shown sitting in a chair in front of a desk on top of which is a book of drawings or prints, suggesting that the subject dedicated his free time to studying the arts. The inscription on the letter he holds in his right hand is not clearly legible. Although the majority of scholars interpret the word in red to read "Santander", Glendinning points out that no such street existed in Madrid and the most likely explanation is that Del Mazo was between addresses at the time the portrait was made. He did in fact buy a house in 1815, and if this really was the reason for the unclear inscription, the work could be precisely dated to that year.

Del Mazo is shown dressed in a black cassock with bright buttons, rendered with white touches of the brush. His white shirt reaches all the way up to his chin. His hands are barely visible, one being foreshortened and covered by the letter and the other concealed inside his jacket, as was common in these portraits. Such "handless" portraits had a lower value than those that showed the sitter's hands, and were less expensive as a result. Francisco del Mazo's face reveals his rough features: a wide, flattened nose, fleshy lips, bushy eyebrows and thick head of black hair, which extends down into the wide sideburns that cover his cheeks. Without a doubt, the subject had a very particular physiognomy which Goya did not wish to hide under any idealization.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Peintures de Goya des collections de France**

Musée de l'Orangerie Paris 1938  
cat. 25

cat. 89

##### **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. 55

##### **Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen. Graphik. Tapisserien**

Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953  
from January 23th to April 12th 1953  
cat. 38

##### **Trésors de la peinture espagnole, Eglises et Musées de France**

Palais du Louvre and Musée des Arts Décoratifs Paris 1963  
from January to April 1963  
cat. 124

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

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963  
cat. 66  
cat. 114

##### **Goya**

Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen Mauritshuis The Hague 1970  
organized by Ministerio de Estado y Asuntos Culturales and Réunion des Musées Nationaux, July 4th to September 13th 1970.  
Exhibited also at the Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries, Paris, October 25th to December 7th 1970, consultant editors Jeannine Baticle and A. B. de Vries  
cat. 47

##### **Goya (1746 - 1828)**

Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna di Ca'Pesaro Venecia 1989  
consultant editor Antonio Fortún Paesa. From May 7th to July 4th 1989  
cat. 49

##### **Goya**

La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo Gargallo Zaragoza 1992  
consultant editor Julián Gállego  
cat. 51

##### **Goya**

Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994  
consultant editors Juan J. Luna and Görel Cavalli-Björkman. From October 7th 1994 to January 8th 1995

##### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996  
cat. 148

##### **Realidad e imagen. Goya 1746 - 1828**

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1996  
consultant editor Federico Torralba Soriano. From October 3th to December 1st 1996

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
pp. 298, 377, cat. 1554  
1970  
Office du livre

### **El retrato en la obra de Goya**

GLENDINNING, Nigel  
p. 130, cat. 599  
1987  
Fundación Amigos del Museo del Prado

### **Musée Goya, Castres**

AUGE, Jean-Louis  
pp. 50-52 y p. 51 (il.)  
1997  
Fondation Paribas

GUDIOL RICART, José  
vol. I, p. 348, cat. 573  
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1970  
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### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
p. 417, cat. 148 y p. 248 (il.)  
1996  
Museo del Prado

[www.ville-castres.fr](http://www.ville-castres.fr)

### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

ANGELIS, Rita de  
p. 130, cat. 599  
1974  
Rizzoli

### **Realidad e imagen. Goya 1746 - 1828**

TORRALBA SORIANO, Federico (comisario)  
p. 180, cat. 64 y p. 181 (il.)  
1996  
Gobierno de Aragón y Electa España

## ENLACES EXTERNOS