

WHY? (POR QUÉ?)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (32/82)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1812 - 1815

DIMENSIONES

157 x 209 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Aguafuerte, aguatinta, lavis, punta seca y bruñidor

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

08 Dec 2010 / 07 Nov 2024

INVENTARIO

836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

49 (on the lower left-hand corner).

HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass* (*Tristes presentimientos de lo que ha de acontecer*).

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 are no surviving preparatory drawings for this print.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In the middle of a natural setting a man is being subjected to brutal torture. Two French soldiers are holding the legs of a Spanish man they have taken prisoner whose head has been tied to a tree with a rope. The rope is taught, squeezing tight around the neck of the prisoner. His eyes are closed, his mouth open. The figure seems to be screaming in pain, his hair standing on end from the unbearable physical suffering. One soldier pushes his foot into the prisoner's back to ensure that the rope is tight enough to asphyxiate him.

This image continues the theme represented in the previous print, no. 31, *That's tough! (Fuerte cosa es)*, in which a soldier pulls on the feet of a hanged man to hasten his death or make sure that he is already dead. The two scenes are equally cruel, depicting torture meted out without pity.

The title of this print poses a question, *Why?*, asking what is the sense or reason behind such a level of suffering. The question is carried over into the next print, no. 33, *What more can be done? (Qué hai que hacer mas?)*. Goya reiterates his inability to understand the events he depicts, answering his own question in print no. 35 in which he admits that *One can't tell why (No se puede saber por qué)*.

Nature is complicit in this torture: the trunk of the tree, which has a burned, dry appearance, provides a support for this atrocious act of violence.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is stored in the National Chalcography (cat. 283).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya. Drawings, Etchings and Lithographs

Goya. Drawings London 1954

from June 12th to July 25th 1954

cat. 55

De grafiek van Goya

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam 1970

from November 13th 1970 to January 17th 1971

cat. 74

Francisco de Goya

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.

cat. 32

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. 118

Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra

San Donato Milanese 2000

Opere grafiche della Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta

cat. 112

Goya. Opera grafica

Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano 2006

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

p. 67

Goya et la modernité

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014

cat. 71

Goya: Order and disorder

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014

cat. 198

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de cat. 134

1918

Blass S.A.

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 152

1964

Bruno Cassirer

Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1047

1970

Office du livre

de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 236

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

Wilfredo

p. 135

2013

Pinacoteca de París

ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie L. (comisarios)

p. 292

2014

Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 114-151

2016

Norton Simon Museum

ENLACES EXTERNOS