WITCHES' DEN

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: CAPRICES NOT ENGRAVED

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1810 - 1820
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	210 x 154 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	25 Aug 2021 / 20 Apr 2023
INVENTARIO	1108 D3960

INSCRIPCIONES

15 (in composite pencil, recto, lower left-hand corner)

45 (in composite pencil, recto, upper right-hand corner)

5 (in blue pencil, verso, upper part in the second support)

113 (in composite pencil, verso, upper right-hand side in the second support)

Frame partially marked with brush

HISTORIA

The drawing passed by inheritance in 1828 to Javier Goya, the painter's son, and in 1854 to Mariano Goya y Goicoechea, the artist's grandson. It was subsequently owned by Valentín Carderera (ca. 1861) and Mariano Carderera (ca. 1880). In 1886 it was acquired from Mariano Carderera by the General Direction of Public Instruction and was assigned to the Prado Museum, where it entered on 12 November 1886.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The den of the title is a kind of cave in which a perverse coven of witches and other demonic characters takes place. Among the swirl of naked bodies flutter black crows. Below, in the foreground, a large winged head takes part in the orgy next to the enormous buttocks of one of the witches in the centre of the scene. The witches have bald heads and grotesque faces, and their bony, angular limbs are reminiscent of the witches in some of Goya's sketchbook drawings, such as *Singing and Dancing* (D.3), *These Witches Will Say It* (C.69) and *Nothing They Say* (C.70). The theme of the gathering of witches is common in other series by Goya, such as the Caprichos, although the gouache technique and its combination with sanguine suggest that it dates from a later period, although a similar chronology cannot be completely ruled out. Pérez Sánchez thinks it could be a preparatory drawing for an unknown engraving.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya e Italia
Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 2008
organized by the Fundación Goya en Aragóna, consultant editor Joan Sureda Pons. From June 1st to September 15th 2008
cat. 298

Europa 1789. Aufklärung, Verklärung, Verfall
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1989
cat. 489

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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pp. il. CLXXXIV
1908
D.Anderson: Editeur

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p. 296, cat. 1522
1970
Office du livre

CAMÓN AZNAR, José
p. 130
1980-1982
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

MAYER, August L.
p. 231, n. 103
1925
Labor

Dibujos de Goya, 2 vols
GASSIER, Pierre
p. 539, cat. 365
1975
Noguer

LUNA, Juan J.
vol. 2, p. 315, cat. 298
2008
Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

SÁNCHEZ CANTÓN. Francisco Javier
n. 214
1954
Museo del Prado

PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ, Alfonso E.
s. p., cat. 36
1980
Ediciones Alfiz

PALABRAS CLAVE

ANTRO PÁJARO BRUJA ORGÍA AQUELARRE

ENLACES EXTERNOS