

UNFORTUNATE CHARGE OF A POWERFUL BULL (BULLFIGHTING B)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: BULLFIGHTING(PRINTS AND DRAWINGS , 1814-1816) (35/46)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1814 - 1815

DIMENSIONES

246 x 348 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Agua fuerte, aguatinta, punta seca y bruñidor

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

29 Sep 2021 / 22 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

964 -

INSCRIPCIONES

B (print, upper right-hand corner)

Goya (print, bottom right-hand corner)

HISTORIA

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*.

This print, discarded by Goya and not included in the first edition of *Bullfighting* of 1816 because of faults in the aquatint bite, was added and published for the first time, along with six others (A-G), in the third edition of the series, printed by Eugène Loizelet in Paris in 1876. It was retained in

subsequent editions of the *Bullfighting*.

A condition test made before the lettering was engraved is preserved.

The plate is kept at the National Chalcography (nº 368), with *Another way of hunting on foot* engraved on the obverse.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*.

This scene is very agitated and saturated with characters, like most of the scenes Goya painted at the beginning of the original series. The use of aquatint is striking, the vigorous effect it creates giving the scene a dramatic character. Paradoxically, for this reason, because of the effects created by the aquatint in the right half of the composition, Goya is thought to have discarded the print from the original series.

We see a bull being carried off a horse, which is completely turned around and the picador who was riding it is falling on the other side. Behind appears a large group of men, probably pimps, who try to separate the bull from the horse, whipping it with pikes, while they watch the scene without getting too excited. On the right-hand side there is another group of three men with their backs to the bullring. The light especially illuminates the cruellest part of the scene, the encounter between the horse and the bull, and part of the group of men on the left. The right half of the composition is illuminated by the curious effect generated by the aquatint.

In terms of subject matter, the print is related to two engravings from the original Bullfighting series, specifically *Fall of a bullfighter from his horse under the bull* and *Two groups of bullfighters being run over by a single bull at once*, as the subject matter is the same.

Lafuente Ferrari stresses that the engraving has the typical characteristics of the first scenes in the series. Martínez-Novillo, for his part, points out that the three scenes showing the fall of the picadors (26, 32 and B) are among the most important in the series, as they reflect the events with notable veracity, movement and violence, both conceptually and visually. Furthermore, he rules out the possibility that they reflect anti-bullfighting ideas, as some authors have suggested, as in reality what Goya did was to tell the events as they happened, although he was aware of their plasticity. He thinks, however, that in this case he may have introduced a certain degree of self-censorship due to the crudeness of the scene, which in principle he was satisfied with, as he signed it on the plate. He relates it to the other prints in the series that deal with the suerte de varas and its incidents (22, 26-28 and 32).

There is a preparatory drawing of the present print, also titled *Unfortunate charge of a powerful bull (Bullfighting B)*.

EXPOSICIONES

Grabados y dibujos de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1946

catalogue Elena Páez Ríos

**Grabados de Goya:
colección propiedad de la
Biblioteca Nacional, que
se conserva en su
Gabinete de**

1984

Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional. Exposición de grabados y dibujos en el sesquicentenario de su muerte

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1978

May - June 1978

Madrid 1987

Casa de la Amistad de Moscú Moscow 1979
exhibition displayed from January
18th to 31st 1979

Madrid 1990

**Schlaf der Vernunft.
Original radierungen von
Francisco de Goya**
Munich 2000

Bilbao 2012

Goya grabador

Fundación Juan March Madrid 1994
consultant editors Alfonso E.
Pérez Sánchez and Julián
Gállego, from January 14th to
March 20th 1994

Madrid 2002

Goya grabador

Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo
Marbella 1996
from March 8th to May 5th 1996

Madrid 2002

Goya luces y sombras

CaixaForum Barcelona 2012
consultant editors José Manuel
Matilla and Manuela B. Marqués.
From March 16th to June 24th
2012
cat. 60

Zaragoza 2017

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

LAFUENTE FERRARI, Enrique
pp. 177-216, espec. pp. 185 y 210
XIX (75)
1946

LUJÁN, Néstor
1946 (reed. 1951)
Tartessos-F. Oliver Branchfelt

HARRIS, Tomás
vol. II, 1964, p. 352, cat. 238
1964
Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p. 280, cat. 1221
1970
Office du livre

Goya, toros y toreros

GASSIER, Pierre
p. 118, cat. 51
1990
Ministerio de Cultura, Comunidad de Madrid

MARTÍNEZ-NOVILLO, Álvaro
pp. 21, 35-36 y 39
1992
Caser-Turner

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
cat. 360
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca
Nacional

MATILLA, José Manuel y MEDRANO, José
Miguel
pp. 100-101
2001
Museo Nacional del Prado

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 186-201
2016
Norton Simon Museum

PALABRAS CLAVE

**TOROS TOREO PERCANCE INCIDENTE CABALLO PICADOR CAÍDA SUELO SUERTE DE
VARAS**

ENLACES EXTERNOS