

# CRUEL FOLLY

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: ABSURDITIES (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, CA.1815-1824)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1815 - 1819

DIMENSIONES

247 x 359 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching and burnished aquatint

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

21 Aug 2021 / 05 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

964 -

## INSCRIPCIONES

*Goya* (print, at the left)

## HISTORIA

See *Femenine folly*.

There is a state proof in the Lazaro Galdiano Foundation with the handwritten number 2.

The print in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, has a 3 in the upper right corner and a handwritten caption: *Cruel folly*.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

An enraged man attacks another man with a club and hits him on the head, causing him to fall to the ground, screaming in pain with a disfigured, almost cadaverous face. In front of him, several people in an unclear attitude barely notice what has happened. One of them, in the foreground, has his back turned, and in the centre of the composition, another is turned slightly. The scene takes place in a ruined space with a half-ruined wall or rampart.

The meaning and significance of this scene is puzzling, as in most of the prints in the *Follies* series. Some authors believe that the character who turns around is going to face the man with the club, while others think that he is in a lewd posture, with his legs open, surrounding a woman for dishonest purposes, so that the armed man would be launching himself against the unbridled libido. Thus, the attacker would be the reason against dirty carnal pleasures. Others believe that the action takes place in a prison environment, more specifically in a prison where political prisoners are held. In that case we would be looking at a denunciation of human cruelty. It would not be the first time that Goya had used this theme, as prison scenes are frequently depicted in the *Caprices*.

As in other prints from the *Follies*, the night sky is rendered in aquatint, while the light falls on the figures to achieve chiaroscuro effects.

The preparatory drawing for the present print, also titled *Cruel folly*.

## EXPOSICIONES

### Etchings by Francisco Goya

Johannesburgo Johannesburgo 1974

1976

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

Casa de la Amistad de Moscú Moscow 1979

exhibition displayed from January 18th to 31st 1979

### Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolutionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980  
cat. 149

### Goya y el espíritu de la Ilustración

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1988

from October 6th to December 18th 1988. Exhibited also at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, January 18th to March 26th 1989; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nueva York, May 9th to July 16th 1989, Madrid curator Manuela B. Mena Marqués, scientific directors Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez and Eleanor A. Sayre

### Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996

from September 19th to December 15th 1996

cat. 303

### Francisco Goya. Sein Leben im Spiegel der Graphik. Fundetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996

Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996

from November 21st 1996 to January 1997

### Goya. 250 Aniversario

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996

consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996

### Goya grabador

Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo Marbella 1996

from March 8th to May 5th 1996

Zaragoza 1996

London 1997

1999

Madrid 1999

### Schlaf der Vernunft. Original Radierungen von Francisco de Goya

Munich 2000

Bilbao 2012

### Goya et la modernité

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014

cat. 206

### Goya: Order and disorder

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014

cat. 178

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

HARRIS, Tomás  
pp. 382-383, cat. 253  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

CARRETE, Juan, MATILLA, José Manuel,  
AULLÓN DE HARO, Pedro, BOZAL, Valeriano,  
GLENDINNING, Nigel, VEGA, Jesusa y BLAS,  
Javier  
pp. 105 y 109, cat. 6, 7 y 26  
1996  
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando y  
Calcografía Nacional

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
Wilfredo  
p. 271  
2013  
Pinacoteca de París

## Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 325, cat. 1579  
1970  
Office du livre

CARRETE, Juan, MATILLA, José Manuel,  
AULLÓN DE HARO, Pedro, BOZAL, Valeriano,  
GLENDINNING, Nigel, VEGA, Jesusa y BLAS,  
Javier  
pp. 122-123, cat. 38  
1996  
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando y  
Calcografía Nacional

## Goya: Order & Disorder

ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie L.  
(comisarios)  
pp. 266-267  
2014  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

## Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

p. 237, cat. 380

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

MATILLA, José Manuel  
pp. 478-479, cat. 177  
2008

Museo Nacional del Prado

## Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 204-211

2016

Norton Simon Museum

## PALABRAS CLAVE

**DISPARATES VIOLENCIA FURIA LÍBIDO CRUELDAD**

## ENLACES EXTERNOS