# JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ DE TOLEDO, DUKE OF ALBA (JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ DE TOLEDO, DUQUE DE ALBA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



**DATOS GENERALES**

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|---|---|
| CRONOLOGÍA | 1795 |
| UBICACIÓN | The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain |
| DIMENSIONES | 195 x 126 cm |
| TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE | Oil on canvas |
| RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA | Undisputed work |
| TITULAR | El Prado National Museum |
| FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN | 01 Feb 2010 / 13 Jun 2023 |
| INVENTARIO | 240 (P02449) |

**HISTORIA**

This painting belonged to the collections of the Countess of Niebla, the widowed Marchioness of Los Vélez, the Marquis of Villafranca and the Duke of Medina Sidonia. It was accepted by the board of the Prado Museum on 6 March 1926, entering the museum's collection on 25 May 1926.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

José Alvarez de Toledo y Gonzaga (Madrid, 1756-Seville, 1796) became the 13th Duke of Alba upon his marriage to María Pilar Teresa Cayetana de Silva, Duchess of Alba. He received the Golden Fleece and the Grand Cross of the Order of Charles III and was named, in 1791, Inquisitor General of Seville. To carry out his duties he moved to his palace in Seville. He was a great lover of chamber music and a keen admirer of Joseph Haydn, the composer of the very musical score, entitled *Four Songs with Pianoforte Accompaniment*, that the sitter is shown holding in this portrait.

Goya represents the duke full length, wearing an orange-hued dress coat and leaning on a table, on top of which are a violin and a hat. His somewhat melancholy face reveals a sensitive lover of the arts. On this occasion Goya did not use the dark background so common in his portraits, instead placing the subject in the interior of a palace and in front of a wall which reflects back a light which brightens the room and gives the whole a heightened sense of depth, an unusual detail in Goya's work.

The previously widely accepted belief that this painting formed a pair with the portrait of the sitter's wife, the Duchess of Alba, is today disputed.

## EXPOSICIONES

### Les chefs-d'œuvre du Musée du Prado
Musée d'Art et d'Histoire Geneva 1939
consultant editors Fernando Álvarez de Sotomayor y Pedro Muguruza Otaño. From June to September 1939
*cat. 5*

### Goya
Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977
from April 12th to June 30th 1977
*cat. 24*

### El arte europeo en la corte de España durante el siglo XVIII
Galerie des Beaux-Arts Burdeos 1979
Exhibitied also at Grand Palais, París y Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid
*cat. 26*

### Goya. La década de Los Caprichos
Madrid 1992
organized by Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando sponsored by Fundación Central Hispano, Madrid, consultant editor Nigel Glendinnig. From October 26th 1992 to January 10th 1993
*cat. 17*

### Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
*cat. 81*

### Realidad e imagen. Goya 1746 – 1828
Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1996
consultant editor Federico Torralba Soriano. From October 3th to December 1st 1996
*cat. 33*

### Goya: Prophet der Moderne
Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005
from July 13th to October 3th 2005. Exhibitied also at the Kunsthistorischemuseum, Vienna, October 18th 2005 to January 8th 2006, consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués
*cat. 35*

### Goya en tiempos de guerra
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008
consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués, from April 14th to July 13th 2008
*cat. 6*

### Goya: Order and disorder
Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014
*cat. 116*

### Goya: The Portraits
London 2015
*cat. 21*

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### Goya: Order & Disorder

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p. 191
2014
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

BRAY, Xavier
pp. 89-90
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www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**