MARÍA DEL PILAR TERESA CAYETANA DE SILVA ÁLVAREZ DE TOLEDO, XIII DUQUESA DE ALBA

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS

DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1795
UBICACIÓN	House of Alba Foundation, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	194 x 130 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	Fundación Casa de Alba
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	22 Feb 2010 / 23 Nov 2022

INSCRIPCIONES

A la Duquesa / de Alba Frco. De / Goya 1795 ("To the Duchess / of Alba Francisco De / Goya 1795", bottom left).

HISTORIA

Until 1834-1840 there is no documentation recording the provenance of this canvas, at which point it reappears in the possession of the Duchess of Berwick and Alba, in the Liria Palace in Madrid, where it has remained until the present day.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

María del Pilar Cayetana de Silva Álvarez de Toledo, (Madrid, 1762 - 1802), the 13th Duchess of Alba, was painted by Goya several times. On this occasion Goya painted her at the age of thirty-three, wearing an elegant long white dress which enhances her figure and is notable for the red sash tied at the waist matching the ribbons of the same colour placed at her bust and in her hair. The quality of the material of the Duchess's dress is striking and is painted with great skill, as is her long mane of curly hair: it falls to her waist and is styled in a fashion popular at the end of the 18th century. The red and white colours of the dress may be a reference to the crest of the House of Alba; in the 18th century their coat-of-arms was draped in a purple, ermine-lined robe.

Her face is not particularly expressive; this, according to Gudiol, contributes to the creation of an image more akin to a religious icon than the portrait of a society lady.

Her hand points down to the floor, indicating the inscription mentioned above. Her right wrist is decorated with gold bracelets, and on her upper arm she is wearing another gold and enamel bracelet which carries the initials of her illustrious family names: an "S" for Silva and a "T" for Álvarez de Toledo, her husband's name.

By her side we can see a white poodle, which was painted in at a later date. Its back leg is decorated with a red bow matching those worn by the Duchess.

The common belief that this painting forms a pair with the portrait of her husband, the *Duke of Alba*, is now questioned.

EXPOSICIONES

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Ministerio de Instrucción Pública and Bellas Artes Madrid 1900
consultant editors Aureliano de Beruete, Alejandro Ferrant, Marqués de Pidal and Ricardo Velázquez. May 1900
cat. 36

Retratos de mujeres españolas por artistas españoles anteriores a 1850
Sociedad Española de Amigos del Arte Madrid 1918
cat. 32

Spanish paintings
The Royal Academy of Arts London 1920
cat. 115

Pinturas de Goya
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1928
consultant editor Fernando Álvarez de Sotomayor. From April to May 1928
cat. 43

Exposición conmemorativa del centenario de Goya
Palacio de Oriente Madrid 1946
organized by Patrimonio Nacional. June 1946
cat. 11

Francisco de Goya. IV Centenario de la capitalidad
organized by Ayuntamiento de Madrid and Dirección General de Bellas Artes at the Casón del Buen Retiro Madrid 1961
consultant editor Valentín de Sambricio
cat. 14

Goya en las colecciones madrileñas
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1983
consultant editor Enrique Lafuente Ferrari. From April 19th to June 20th 1983
cat. 23

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

El Retrato español, de El Greco a Picasso
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2004
from October 20th 2004 to February 6th 2005
cat. 61

editor Nigel Glendinning. From October 26th 1992 to January 10th 1993
cat. 16

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. 5

Colección Casa de Alba
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cat. 21

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p. 170, cat. 351
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GUDIOL, José
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pp. 158, 159,160 y 161 (il.), cat. 23
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ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie L. (comisarios)
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2014
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ENLACES EXTERNOS