# WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT!

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (62/85)




**DATOS GENERALES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CRONOLOGÍA | Ca. 1797 - 1799 |
| DIMENSIONES | 203 x 151 mm |
| TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE | Aguafuerte, aguatinta bruñida y buril |
| RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA | Undisputed work |
| FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN | 29 Dec 2010 / 29 May 2024 |
| INVENTARIO | 836 225 |

**INSCRIPCIONES**

*Quien lo creyera!* (at the bottom)

*62.* (in the upper right-hand corner)

**HISTORIA**

See *Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, Painter*.

A *preparatory drawing* of this engraving has survived.

**ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO**

Two naked witches engage in a fierce fight as they fall. Below them, a feline-looking monster awaits them, raising its sharp claws wide open. The scene takes place at night, in a mountainous space.

In the Ayala manuscript the following is written about this engraving: "Two old men given to lechery are devoured by monsters". In the manuscript of the Prado Museum, the print is commented on as follows: "See here a cruel quarrel over which is the witchier of the two: who would think that the petite and the frizzy would repel each other like this: friendship is the daughter of virtue; the wicked may be accomplices, but not friends".

According to Edith Helman, the source of inspiration for this engraving could be the first canto of *Paradise Lost* (1667) by John Milton (London, 1608-1674), translated by José Cadalso (Cádiz, 1741-Gibraltar, 1728) and by Gaspar Melchor Jovellanos (Gijón, 1744-Navia, 1811). It tells how the rebellious spirits, plunged from the region of heaven, fall into the immense abyss.

It is likely that Goya may have become acquainted with this type of text during his stay in the Cadiz house of Sebastián Martínez y Pérez (1747-1800), a collector of engravings and paintings and the owner of an important library. At that time Cadiz had flourishing commercial relations with England, which would also have implied cultural exchanges. It is also possible that the Aragonese painter consulted this work in the library of the Duke and Duchess of Osuna, for whom he executed a *series of paintings* depicting scenes of witchcraft.

**CONSERVACIÓN**

The plate is preserved in the National Chalcography (no. 233).

**EXPOSICIONES**

**Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen. Graphik. Tapisserien**
Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953
from January 23th to April 12th 1953
*cat. 246*

**Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolucionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)**
Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980
*cat. 39*

**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. 173*

**Francisco de Goya**
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.
*cat. 62, p.89*

**Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996**
Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996
from November 21st 1996 to January 1997
*cat. 68*

**Goya e la tradizione italiana**
Fondazione Magnani Rocca Mamiano di Traversetolo (Parma) 2006
consultant editors Fred Licht and Simona Tosini Pizzetti. From September 9th to December 3th 2006
*cat. 62, p.161*

**Goya. Opera grafica**
Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano 2006
exhibition celebrated from December 16th 2006 to April 1st 2007
*p.40*

**Goya luces y sombras**
CaixaForum Barcelona 2012
consultant editors José Manuel Matilla and Manuela B. Marqués. From March 16th to June 24th 2012
*cat. 38*

**Goya et la modernité**
Pinacothèque de Paris París 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014
*cat. 136*

London 2015
*cat. 28*

2022

**BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

**Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.**
HARRIS, Tomás
pp.139, cat. 97

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p.183, cat. 575

**Goya, la década de los caprichos: dibujos y aguafuertes**
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

1964
Bruno Cassirer

1970
Office du livre

p.106, cat. 152
1992
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

**Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**
SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)
p.106, cat. 152
1996
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

**El libro de los caprichos: dos siglos de interpretaciones (1799-1999). Catálogo de los dibujos, pruebas de estado, láminas de cobre y estampas de la primera edición**
BLAS BENITO, Javier, MATILLA RODRÍGUEZ, José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel
pp.318-321
1999
Museo Nacional del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo
p. 197
2013
Pinacoteca de París

WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet y BUCK, Stephanie (eds.)
p. 137
2015
The Courtauld Gallery

**Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum**
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 42-75
2016
Norton Simon Museum

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN MEDINA, Víctor
p. 47
2022
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación de Badajoz

**PALABRAS CLAVE**

**BRUJAS VUELOS EXPULSIÓN DEL PARAÍSO CAPRICCIO**

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**