

# THE COUNTESS OF CHINCHÓN (LA CONDESA DE CHINCHÓN)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



## DATOS GENERALES

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| CRONOLOGÍA                           | 1800   |
| UBICACIÓN                            | The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain |
| DIMENSIONES                          | 216 x 144 cm                                     |
| TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE                    | Oil on canvas                                    |
| RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA | Undisputed work                                  |
| TITULAR                              | El Prado National Museum                         |
| FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN          | 21 Jan 2010 / 16 Jun 2023                        |
| INVENTARIO                           | 245 (P07767)                                     |

## HISTORIA

This work came from Boadilla del Monte (Madrid) and belonged to the descendants of the sitter, the Count and Countess of Chinchón. It was later inherited by the Duke and Duchess of Sueca. It was acquired by the Prado Museum in 2000.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

María Teresa de Bourbon y Vallabriga (1780-1820) was the daughter of the Infante Don Luis de Bourbon, brother of Charles III, and of Doña María Teresa de Vallabriga y Rozas. The first five years of her life were spent in Arenas de San Pedro (Ávila), where Goya painted a portrait of her in a garden. When her father died in 1785 she was sent, along with her sister María Luisa de Borbón y Vallabriga, to the convent of San Clemente in Toledo, which she finally left in 1797 to marry Manuel Godoy, a minister during the reign of Charles IV. From their marriage was born a daughter, the Infanta Carlota, raised by Queen María Luisa. After the rebellion of Aranjuez, in which Godoy was imprisoned, María Teresa fled to Toledo with her brother and, in 1824, when he died, she went into exile in Paris, where she died four years later following a prolonged period of illness.

The countess was here depicted at the age of twenty-one, pregnant with her daughter, the Infanta Carlota. She is in front of a dark background, seated in a golden period armchair and wearing a dress of white gauze decorated with small flowers and a low neckline. The cloth features some detailed folds and touches of grey, whilst the sitter's hair displays abundant blonde curls, tied back and decorated with ears of wheat (a symbol of fertility) and green feathers, with a ribbon tied under her chin. Her hands, clasped together over her belly, are both adorned with a ring, on one of which we can make out an image of her husband. The painter has focused all of his attention on the timid, somewhat daydreaming character of the countess. The warm colour palette employed gives a heightened sense of delicacy and elegance to the figure. This is without a doubt a key piece in the artist's oeuvre.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Spanish paintings**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1920  
cat. 47

##### **Pinturas de Goya**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1928  
consultant editor Fernando  
Álvarez de Sotomayor. From April  
to May 1928  
cat. 19

##### **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. 20

##### **Exposición conmemorativa del centenario de Goya**

Palacio de Oriente Madrid 1946  
organized by Patrimonio  
Nacional. June 1946  
cat. 13

##### **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. XV

##### **Goya and his times**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963  
cat. 66  
cat. 87

##### **Goya**

Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen Mauritshuis  
The Hauge 1970  
organized by Ministerio de Estado  
y Asuntos Culturales and Réunion  
des Musées Nationaux, July 4th  
to September 13th 1970.  
Exhibited also at the Musée de  
l'Orangerie des Tuileries, Paris,  
October 25th to December 7th  
1970, consultant editors Jeannine  
Baticle and A. B. de Vries  
cat. 29

##### **Goya en las colecciones madrileñas**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1983  
consultant editor Enrique  
Lafuente Ferrari. From April 19th  
to June 20th 1983  
cat. 30

##### **Goya nelle collezioni private di Spagne**

Villa Favorita Lugano 1986  
consultant editor Marta Medina.  
From June 15th to October 15th  
1986  
cat. 31

##### **La Condesa de Chinchón**

The National Gallery London 1987

##### **Goya y el espíritu de la Ilustración**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1988

from October 6th to December  
18th 1988. Exhibited also at

##### **Goya: The Condesa de Chinchón and other Paintings, Drawings, and Prints**

The National Gallery of Art Washington 1986

Goya: The Condesa de Chinchón

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  
*cat. 63*

and other Paintings, Drawings,  
and Prints from Spanish and  
American Private Collections and  
the National Gallery of Art.

### **Goya**

La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo  
Gargallo Zaragoza 1992  
consultant editor Julián Gállego  
*cat. 37*

### **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. 9*

### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd  
1996  
*cat. 104*

### **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. 29*

### **Goya: Order and disorder**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014  
*cat. 112*

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### **Goya**

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LAFUENTE FERRARI, Enrique (comisario)  
pp. 174-177 (il.), cat. 30  
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### **Goya y el espíritu de la Ilustración**

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Eleanor A. (directores) and MENA, Manuela B.  
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Museo del Prado

### **Goya**

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Museo del Prado

### **Goya en tiempos de guerra**

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Museo Nacional del Prado

### **Goya: Order & Disorder**

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Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

[www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)

## **ENLACES EXTERNOS**