

THE BEDS OF DEATH (LAS CAMAS DE LA MUERTE)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (62/82)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1812 - 1815
DIMENSIONES	177 x 221 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Aguafuerte, lavis, punta seca, buril y bruñidor
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	20 Dec 2010 / 24 May 2023
INVENTARIO	836 225

HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass (Tristes presentimientos de lo que ha de acontecer)*.

The title was handwritten on the print by Goya in the first and only series that is known to have been printed at the time the works were created, which the artist gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Therefore, the title was etched into the plate at a later date and left unchanged as of

the first edition of the *Disasters of War* printed by the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1863, after the printing of the series in the possession of Ceán Bermúdez.

There is a surviving *preparatory drawing* for this print which is housed in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In the middle of a street or another public place a female figure covered from head to foot passes by a group of corpses covered up with sheets. The viewer cannot see the woman's face, although it is clear that she is covering her nose to block out the stench of the bodies.

Goya has made some deep, dense marks in the background, creating a mesh effect in some areas that serves to intensify the darkness. The only light area of the print is the white tunic that completely covers the woman passing by the corpses.

Despite the simplicity of the composition and the fact that the lifeless bodies are depicted covered for the first time in the series *The Disasters of War*, Goya achieves an intense dramatic atmosphere in this work. The artist does not need to show the mutilated or emaciated, starved bodies in order to evoke a strong sensation of distaste and distress in the viewer. He also reiterates a gesture repeated in print no. 18, *Bury them and keep quiet (Enterrar y callar)*, in which the figures depicted also cover their noses before piles of corpses that are most likely awaiting burial.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is stored in the National Chalcography (cat. 313).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya and his times

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963

cat. 66

cat. 250

Francisco de Goya

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from
September 22nd to November
17th.

cat. 146

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

p. 179, cat. 62

Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra

San Donato Milanese 2000

Opere grafiche della Fondazione
Antonio Mazzotta

cat. 142

Goya et la modernité

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March
16th 2014

cat. 101

2022

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

cat. 164

1918

Blass S.A.

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 182

1964

Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1098

1970

Office du livre

Goya. Arte e condizione umana

PAZ, Alfredo de

lam. 213

1990

Liguori editore

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 276

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

Francisco de Goya. Los Desastres de la guerra

GALLEGO GARCÍA, Raquel

p. 40

2011

La Central

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,

Goya. In the Norton Simon

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN

Wilfredo
p. 150
2013
Pinacoteca de París

Museum
WILSON BAREAU, Juliet
pp. 114-151
2016
Norton Simon Museum

MEDINA, Víctor
p. 82
2022
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación
de Badajoz

ENLACES EXTERNOS