

# YOUNG WOMEN WITH PITCHERS (LAS MOZAS DEL CÁNTARO)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: SEVEN CARTOONS FOR TAPESTRIES FOR THE KING'S OFFICE IN THE PALACE OF SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL  
(2/7)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

UBICACIÓN

DIMENSIONES

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

TITULAR

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

INVENTARIO

1791 - 1792

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

262 x 160 cm

Oil on canvas

Documented work

El Prado National Museum

21 Dec 2009 / 14 Jun 2023

66 (P00800)

## HISTORIA

See *The Wedding*.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

One of a pair of identically sized stretchers that appear on the invoice of the carpenter Alejandro Cittadini was set aside for *Young Women with Pitchers*. The other stretcher was for the companion piece, *The Straw Manikin*.

Two girls have just filled some pitchers at the fountain behind them. They each carry one pitcher carefully balanced on their heads and hold the others in their arms. Between them we see an older woman who has been identified as the *celestina*, or procuress, who is giving some advice to the girl on the left, almost certainly because someone has shown an interest in her.

Accompanying the women is a boy wearing a hat and carrying two smaller pitchers in his hands. The figures stand in a rural landscape featuring some architectural elements. In the background are fields and a small mountain range. The ashlar of the wall are very similar to those that we find in the cartoon of *The Wedding*, which would probably have been flanked by this piece on one side and by *The Straw Manikin* on the other.

Observing the wall it is just possible to make out an underlying figure over which Goya painted the blocks. This was the third woman, who was filling the pitchers, just as she appears in the sketch. In an x-ray of the painting she is clearly visible.

The interpretation of this painting is closely tied to the other two works mentioned above. If *The Wedding* is the representation of a marriage of convenience in which the woman says "I do" but then takes anyone by the hand, and *The Straw Manikin* symbolizes man falling into the hands of woman, *Young Women with Pitchers* would depict the tempting of man before his fall into the traps set for him by women. This is a theme that Goya was to return to, and which reached its fullest expression in his *Caprices* series.

#### EXPOSICIONES

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cat. 53

**Goya. La imagen de la mujer**  
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Francisco Calvo Serraller  
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**Goya: Order and disorder**  
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[www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)

## **ENLACES EXTERNOS**