

THE TRUTH DIED

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (79/82)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1820 - 1823

DIMENSIONES

176 x 221 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching and burnisher

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

06 Jan 2011 / 05 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

HISTORIA

See *Sad forebodings of what is to come*.

The title of the print was handwritten by Goya on the first and only series known to us at the time of its production, which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Thus the title was subsequently engraved on the plate without any modification from Ceán Bermúdez's copy for the first edition of the *Disasters of War* published by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid in 1863.

A *preparatory drawing* of this engraving is in the Prado Museum

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In the foreground on the ground lies a bare-breasted female figure, which could be an allegory of Truth, as the title suggests, from which rays of light emanate. She is surrounded by several people attending her burial; a bishop seems to be officiating and monks with shovels are preparing to bury the body. On the left is the allegory of Justice, holding the scales with one hand and covering her face with the other in mourning; she is the saddest figure in this scene.

This is not the first time that Goya refers to the allegory of Justice in the series of *The Disasters of War*, as it is also found in engraving no. 69, *Nothing. This will tell us* that in his first state proof its presence was quite clear.

In some cases it has been suggested that the woman being buried could be the Constitution, wearing a laurel wreath alluding to her victory. The rays she emanates indicate that she could still be alive and that she is resisting burial. In this way, as Jesusa Vega points out, Goya's image could be an illustration of the events that took place in Madrid that have been described in the *Manifiesto of everything that happened in Madrid on the occasion of the King's Decree of 4 May: namely the abrogation of the Constitution, the solemnity with which the tombstone of that name in the Plaza Mayor was dragged, the burning in the same square of the statue of Liberty*; and also a compilation of the functions that took place in Madrid on the occasion of the entry of our august Monarch Ferdinand VII, published in the Madrid printing house of the Viuda de Vallín in 1814. In addition, the *décima A la caída de la Constitución y muerte de los liberales On the Fall of the Constitution and the Death of the Liberals* was distributed on flyleaves.

Another possible source of inspiration for engraving no. 79 is, as Nigel Glendinning suggests, the work of Giambattista Casti (Viterbo or Acquapendente, 1724-Paris, 1803) *Gli animali parlanti* (1801). The historian believes that Truth Died may have to do with Canto XIV, in which Justice and Truth disappear from the earth.

This image has some parallels with several pages in *Notebook C*, especially with C.117 *Lux Ex Tenebris*. In it, Goya wanted to show that, despite the absolutists' attempts to bury the Constitution, it, with its glowing body, augurs its imminent resurrection.

The somewhat hermetic nature of most of the prints in the *Emphatic Caprices* makes their identification rather complex. In many cases, as in *Died the Truth*, it could be thought that Goya condenses several ideas into a single print, drawing on various sources of inspiration.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in the National Chalcography (cat. 330).

EXPOSICIONES

Goya and his times

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963

cat. 66

cat. 254

De grafiek van Goya

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam

1970

from November 13th 1970 to
January 17th 1971

cat. 89

Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revoluciones. Kunst um 1800 (1980 - 1981)

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980

cat. 105

Francisco de Goya

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from
September 22nd to November
17th.

p.196, cat. 79

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. 169

Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra

San Donato Milanese 2000

Opere grafiche della Fondazione
Antonio Mazzotta

cat. 159

Goya en tiempos de

Goya et la modernité

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

Goya: Order and disorder

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014

guerra

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008

consultant editor Manuela B.

Mena Marqués, from April 14th to
July 13th 2008

cat. 118

from October 11st 2013 to March
16th 2014

cat. 118

cat. 187

2022

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya, grabador

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

cat. 181

1918

Blass S.A.

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 199

1964

Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1132

1970

Office du livre

A solution to the enigma of Goya's emphatic caprices nº 65-80 of The Disasters of War

Apollo

GLENDINNING, Nigel

pp.186-191

107

1978

Goya y el espíritu de la Ilustración

PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ, Alfonso E. y SAYRE,
Eleanor A. (directores) and MENA, Manuela B.
(comisaria)

cat. 161

1988

Museo del Prado

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 304

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca
Nacional

Dibujos de Goya: Los álbumes

GASSIER, Pierre

1973

Noguer

El Libro de los Desastres de la Guerra

BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José

Manuel

pp.137-159

2000

Museo del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,

Wilfredo

p. 159

2013

Pinacoteca de París

Goya: Order & Disorder

ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie

L. (comisarios)

p. 281

2014

Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 114-151

2016

Norton Simon Museum

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN

MEDINA, Víctor

p. 86

2022

Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación
de Badajoz

ENLACES EXTERNOS