# ORIGIN OF HARPOONS OR SPEARGUNS (PREPARATORY DRAWING)

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: BULLFIGHTING(PRINTS AND DRAWINGS , 1814-1816) (7B/46)



**DATOS GENERALES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CRONOLOGÍA | Ca. 1814 - 1816 |
| UBICACIÓN | The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain |
| DIMENSIONES | 185 x 300 mm |
| TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE | Sanguine on laid paper |
| RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA | Documented work |
| TITULAR | El Prado National Museum |
| FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN | 01 Oct 2021 / 22 Jun 2023 |
| INVENTARIO | 2247 D4293 |

**INSCRIPCIONES**

*18* (in pencil; recto, lower left-hand corner)

Engraving (manuscript, verso, upper middle)

*3* [Under the annotation "Engraving"] (manuscript, verso, upper middle)

*213* (manuscript, verso, lower left)

**HISTORIA**

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside.*

Javier Goya, Madrid, 1828; Mariano Goya, Madrid, 1854; Valentín Carderera, Madrid, c. 1861; Mariano

Carderera, Madrid, 1880; Prado Museum, 1886.

**ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO**

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside.*

This sketch for the print *Origin of harpoons or spearguns* defines the composition quite precisely. But unlike previous drawings, the spectators behind or in front of them begin to take centre stage as a formless crowd. This is perhaps one of the greatest innovations in Matilla's visual representation of bullfights.

The elimination of distance and anecdotal elements, the dramatic use of light and emptiness are the pillars of Goya's visual composition. The bullring is barely hinted at by fragments of barriers, and the fusion of lines allows us to feel the presence of an audience, without any distinctive features. The scene depicts the moment when a bull is speared. In those days a single piece, called a harpoon, was used, which consisted of a wooden shaft with iron at one end and two additional points, facing the shaft to make a catch.

**CONSERVACIÓN**

La lámina presenta una marca de doblez en el eje vertical del papel.

**BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

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**PALABRAS CLAVE**

**TOROS TOREO CAPOTE CITAR ARPÓN BANDERILLA BANDERILLAS MOROS MAMELUCO**

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**