

# BITTER PRESENCE (AMARGA PRESENCIA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (13/82)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1810 - 1812

DIMENSIONES

143 x 169 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching, aquatint, burin, drypoint and burnisher

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

29 Nov 2010 / 02 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

## INSCRIPCIONES

Goya (lower left-hand corner), 20 (lower left-hand corner of plate)

## HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass*.

There exist two state proofs for this etching. The first features some drypoint on the sword belonging to the man reclining on the left-hand side and some retouching with burin below the woman's right breast. In the second proof the lavis work has been added.

The title was handwritten by Goya on the first and only print run that we know to have been made at the time, and which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. The title was engraved on to the copperplate at a later date, and no other modifications were made to the image for the first edition of the Disasters of War, which was printed by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, Madrid, in 1863.

There is a *preparatory drawing* in the Prado Museum.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In an interior space featuring two archways through which the light enters, a handcuffed man is leaning against a wall, his back to the viewer. He is about to bear witness to a brutal rape. Two soldiers have hold of a woman, perhaps the wife of the handcuffed man, by the arms. She is looking up at one of her attackers, pleading for mercy. At the same time, another soldier is raping a second woman in the background.

The place in which these actions are taking place bears some similarities to the space depicted by Goya in etching no. 11, *Or these*. This would be somewhere out of the way, where nobody is likely to come to the aid of the prisoners, somewhere that, far from sheltering them, becomes their prison.

*Bitter presence* is a heavy, particularly dark image. The light that is flooding in through the two archways falls mainly on the clothes of the woman in the foreground and on the shirt worn by the man who is being forced to witness the unfolding events. The soldiers either have their backs to us or their faces are either downturned or simply dimly lit, so that we cannot identify them, just as occurs in many other etchings in the series.

This etching can be related to those other prints in the Disasters of War series in which women play an important role, often as victims of different types of violence: no. 3, *The women give courage*, n° 7, *What courage!*, n° 9, *They do not want to*, n° 11, *Or these*, n° 19, *There is no more time* and no. 31, *That's tough*.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The etching plate is conserved in the National Chalcography Museum (cat. 264).

The copperplate for this etching used half of the plate from *Landscape with Cliff, Buildings and Trees*.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **De grafiek van Goya**

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam  
1970

from November 13th 1970 to  
January 17th 1971

cat. 62

##### **Francisco de Goya**

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from  
September 22nd to November  
17th.

cat. 13

##### **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. 101

##### **Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996

from September 19th to  
December 15th 1996

cat. 202

##### **Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra**

San Donato Milanese 2000

Opere grafiche della Fondazione  
Antonio Mazzotta

cat. 93

##### **Goya. Opera grafica**

Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio  
Legnano 2006

exhibition celebrated from  
December 16th 2006 to April 1st  
2007

p. 57

##### **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014

Agen 2019

cat. 60

2022

**BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

**Goya, grabador**

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de  
cat. 115  
1918  
Blass S.A.

**Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)  
cat. 203  
1996  
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

MOTTIN, Bruno, EFEDAQUE, Adrien and WILSON-BAREU, Juliet  
p. 159  
2019  
Snoeck

**Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.**

HARRIS, Tomás  
cat. 133  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo  
p. 126  
2013  
Pinacoteca de París

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN MEDINA, Víctor  
p. 59  
2022  
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación de Badajoz

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
cat. 1011  
1970  
Office du livre

**Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum**

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

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**