

# FERDINAND VII (FERNANDO VII)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1810

UBICACIÓN

Palace of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain

DIMENSIONES

103 x 82 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

Diputación Foral de Navarra

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

14 Apr 2010 / 16 Jun 2023

## INSCRIPCIONES

FERNANDO III DE NAVARRA / VII DE CASTILLA ("FERDINAND III OF NAVARRE AND VII OF CASTILE", at the bottom).

## HISTORIA

This work was made following Ferdinand VII's return to Spain from France, where he had been imprisoned once Joseph Bonaparte was named King of Spain. On 20 June 1814, the Regional Government of Navarre commissioned Goya to paint this portrait. The artist completed the task in just twelve days, and received two thousand reales as payment. This

may be the first portrait that Goya made of the monarch after his return to Spain.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Ferdinand VII (San Lorenzo de El Escorial, 1784-Madrid, 1833) was proclaimed King of Spain in 1808, although soon afterwards he was forced into exile by the Napoleonic invasion. After the expulsion of Joseph Bonaparte, he reigned once again, from 1814 up until his death. His reign was characterised by a return to absolutism and the persecution of liberals and afrancesados, or supporters of the French.

To execute this painting, Goya made use of the life studies that he had made for the portrait of *Ferdinand VII on horseback*, painted in 1808.

This half-length portrait depicts the monarch seated in front of a neutral background, accompanied by the symbols of his power: the royal crown, the baton adorned with castles and lions, and the robes of state, lined with ermine fur and held in place by a single button, over the top of which the necklace of the Order of the Golden Fleece hangs, with the blue and white sash of the Order of Charles III visible underneath.

The king has his head turned to the right, and the somewhat lost look upon his face gives him an absent, distracted appearance. According to some scholars of Goya's work, the artist was no great admirer of this monarch, for which reason he tended to represent him as an unpleasant, arrogant character.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

This portrait has undergone several interventions, resulting in damage to the quality of the painting. It was relined, the background painted black, and the inscription that we see today at the bottom of the canvas was added.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Burdeos 1951  
organized by the Bordeaux City  
Hall, consultant editor Gilberte  
Martin-Méry. From May 16th to  
June 30th 1951  
cat. 39

##### **Goya**

La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo  
Gargallo Zaragoza 1992  
consultant editor Julián Gállego  
cat. 46

##### **España 1808-1814. De súbditos a ciudadanos**

Museo de Santa Cruz Toledo 2008  
consultant editor Juan Sisinio  
Pérez Garzón. From December  
16th 2008 to June 14th 2009

##### **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013  
from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014  
cat. 223

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

##### **L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols**

DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier  
p. 192, cat. 479  
1928-1950

##### **El Goya de la Diputación de Navarra**

Príncipe de Viana  
CASTRO ÁLAVA, José Ramón  
año núm. 3, pp. 37-39  
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1942

##### **Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 297, cat. 1536  
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vol. I, p. 361, cat. 629  
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vol. IV, p. 35  
1980-1982  
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

**Goya**  
GÁLLEGO, Julián  
1992  
Electa

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
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2013  
Pinacoteca de París

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**