

THE FAIR AT MADRID (LA FERIA DE MADRID)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: CARDBOARDS FOR TAPESTRIES: THE MADRID FAIR (PAINTING AND SKETCHES, 1778-1780). BEDROOM OF THE PRINCES OF ASTURIAS, EL PARDO PALACE (1/7)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1778 - 1780
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	258 x 218 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	22 Nov 2009 / 14 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	18 (P00779)

HISTORIA

This work forms part of the series of seven cartoons on the theme of the fair for tapestries designed to decorate the bedroom of the Prince and Princess of Asturias in the palace of El Pardo.

On 2 October 1777, Goya was sent two lists with the dimensions of the tapestries that were to

decorate the royal chambers. The first contained seven pieces for the bedroom itself and the second listed thirteen to be hung in the antechamber.

On 6 January 1779, Goya delivered an invoice to the Royal Tapestry Factory for six new cartoons: *The Fair at Madrid*, *The Pottery Vendor*, *The Soldier and the Lady*, *The Haw Seller*, *Boys Playing at Soldiers* and *Children with a Cart*. A seventh cartoon, that of *The Blind Guitarist*, the tapestry of which was also to form part of the decorative scheme of the bedroom but which ended up being displayed in the antechamber to the bedroom, was delivered to the factory on 27 April 1778. We must assume that the six aforementioned cartoons were made during the period between the two deliveries of 27 April 1778 and 6 January 1779. A letter from Goya to his friend Martín Zapater dated 9 January mentions "four paintings" that were particularly well received by Charles III and the Prince and Princess of Asturias. The letter does not specify which ones they were but, given that the delivery was made just three days before Goya wrote this letter, it is very likely that he was referring to some of the works in this series. It is no surprise that the paintings pleased their Majesties, since the theme of Spanish types was a favourite among the ilustrados.

Around 1856 or 1857, the cartoon was moved from the Royal Tapestry Factory of Santa Bárbara to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870, it was taken to the Prado Museum under orders given on 18 January and 9 February.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The tapestry of *The Fair at Madrid* would have hung on the east wall of the royal bedroom, opposite that of *The Pottery Vendor*.

It is one of Goya's most acclaimed cartoons. It depicts a scene in which a nobleman and woman are entering the fair and are looking at the stand of an antiques dealer. They are accompanied by a *connoisseur*, who is peering attentively up at the paintings through his spectacles. The iridescent highlights on the gentleman's clothes and the fine detail on the lady's shawl are very worthy of attention, along with the skilfully rendered metals in the still life that is spread out in the foreground. All of these effects would have been difficult to transfer to the tapestry. In contrast to the strong light falling on the elegant couple, the antiques dealer is deftly painted against the light.

In the background, subtly standing out against the afternoon sky, is the outline of the dome of the church of San Francisco el Grande. This landmark, which appears again and again in the works of Goya, was newly built at the time, having been finished only shortly before 1777.

The scene is set on the traditional site of the city's annual fair, where the Rastro flea market is held today, in Madrid's Ribera de Curtidores and Plaza de la Cebada.

CONSERVACIÓN

The reddish preparation that Goya applied, sometimes covered with a thin glaze, has caused the work to darken over the years. Its colours now appear flat and lack the tonal range that they would have had originally.

EXPOSICIONES

Les chefs-d'œuvre du Musée du Prado
Musée d'Art et d'Histoire Geneva 1939
consultant editors Fernando Álvarez de Sotomayor y Pedro Muguruza Otaño. From June to September 1939
cat. 36

Goya
Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977
from April 12th to June 30th 1977
cat. 18

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.
From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 18

Permanencia de la

Goya luces y sombras
CaixaForum Barcelona 2012

memoria, cartones para tapiz y dibujos de Goya

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1997

organized by Gobierno de Aragón, Museo Nacional del Prado and Patrimonio Nacional, consultant editor Fernando Checa Cremades. From February 14th to April 6th 1997

cat. 9, sec. IV

consultant editors José Manuel Matilla and Manuela B. Marqués. From March 16th to June 24th 2012

cat. 7

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols

DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier
vol. I, p. 71, cat. 12
1928-1950

GUDIOL RICART, José
vol. I, p. 247, cat. 74
t. I
1970
Polígrafa

Francisco de Goya, cartones y tapices

ARNAIZ, José Manuel
pp. 93, 95, 264, cat. 25C y p. 95 (il.)
1987
Espasa Calpe
col. "Espasa Arte"

Salas del Palacio Real de El Pardo para las que se tejieron tapices sobre cartones de Francisco de Goya: identificación de las habitaciones y ajuste de los alzados de las paredes

in HERRERO CARRETERO, Concha (curator), Tapices y cartones de Goya (catalogue of the exhibition organized at the Palacio Real de Madrid, from may to june 1996)
SANCHO, José Luis
p. 170 (il.)
1996
Patrimonio Nacional, Goya 96, Lunberg

www.museodelprado.es

Tapices de Goya

SAMBRICIO, Valentín de
pp. 103, 110, 220, cat. 21 y láms. 95-97
1946
Patrimonio Nacional

L'opera pittorica completa di Goya

ANGELIS, Rita de
p. 95, cat. 81
1974
Rizzoli

Francisco de Goya. Los cartones para tapices y los comienzos de su carrera en la corte de Madrid

TOMLINSON, Janis A.
pp. 103, 104 y p. 100 (il.)
1987
Cátedra
col. "Ensayos de Arte Cátedra"

Cartas a Martín Zapater

GOYA Y LUCIENTES, Francisco de
p. 72, nº 8
2003
Istmo

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
pp. 76, 88, cat. 124
1970
Office du livre

Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.

CAMÓN AZNAR, José
vol. I, p. 97 y p. 145 (il.)
1980-1982
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

Goya. 250 Aniversario

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)
pp. 298-300, cat. 18 y p. 90 (il.)
1996
Museo del Prado

Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794

MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B. y MAURER, Gudrun (comisarias)
p. 142
2014
Museo Nacional del Prado

ENLACES EXTERNOS