

# INDUSTRY (LA INDUSTRIA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. ALLEGORY, MYTHOLOGY, HISTORY

SERIE: ALLEGORIES FOR THE PALACE OF GODOY (PAINTING, 1801 - 1805) (2/4)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1801 - 1805

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

Diámetro 227 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Tempera on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

17 Feb 2010 / 13 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

97 (P02548)

## HISTORIA

See *Agriculture*.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Goya chose to represent a realistic scene for the allegory of *Industry*. Two women are working in a factory which could be the tapestry factory of Santa Bárbara, since they are shown working with looms, and it was a place which Goya doubtless knew very well. The main figure in the scene is notable for her melancholy expression and distant gaze, while her

companion is looking at her, wondering what she is thinking about. Goya painted a window behind them, but the light which hits the figures is made to look as if it comes from the real skylight located high up in the vault of the hallway of Godoy's palace. The light, which is cold and grey, creates a rather dark and sad atmosphere in which the yellow and green of the main weaver's dress stand out as the most intense colours in this palette.

Opposite the window there is a group of women who are executed in almost grisaille tones, probably in order to give them an otherworldly feel. They are looking at the sad girl. According to Manuela Mena, these could be the Fates; weavers of the thread of life, they are the rulers of human destiny - in this case, the destiny of this girl. This work has with reason been linked to the *The Spinners* by Velázquez, since as well as representing women weaving, it also has a mythological element. It is inevitable that we should assume that Goya got the idea for representing mythological subjects in everyday scenes from works such as *The Spinners*, or *The Drunkards* (by the same artist: both paintings are housed in the Prado Museum, Madrid).

A more earthly interpretation has been made of this painting to do with prostitution: it is a well-known fact that many prostitutes learned the trade of spinning thanks to the support of some enlightened politicians who promoted the training of these women. The mood of the workers we see here, as well as their profession, fits in with this idea. It would not be the only time that Goya dealt with this subject (see drawing no. 84 from Album B, *San Fernando, How they Spin!*).

For more information on the whole series, see *Agriculture*.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya**

Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977  
from April 12th to June 30th 1977  
cat. 35

##### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd  
1996  
cat. 118

##### **Goya. La imagen de la mujer**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2001  
from October 30th 2001 to  
February 10th 2002. Exhibited  
also at the National Gallery of  
Art, Washington, March 10th to  
June 2nd 2002, consultant  
editor Francisco Calvo Serraller  
cat. 52

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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vol. I, p. 136, cat. 93  
1928-1950

##### **La elaboración de un cuadro de Goya**

Archivo Español de Arte  
SÁNCHEZ CANTÓN, Francisco Javier  
pp. 301-307  
XVII, 71  
1945

##### **Goya's allegories of fact and fiction**

The Burlington Magazine  
SORIA, Martín S.  
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##### **Goya, Saturno y melancolía. Consideraciones sobre el arte de Goya**

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##### **Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya**

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##### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

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##### **Goya's Allegories and the Sphinxes: Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Science in situ**

The Burlington Magazine  
ROSE-DE VIEJO, Isadora  
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Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

**Goya. 250 Aniversario**

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
p. 389, cat. 118 y p. 213 (il.)  
1996  
Museo del Prado

**Goya, la imagen de la mujer**

CALVO SERRALLER, Francisco (comisario)  
pp. 224, 334, cat. 52 y p. 225 (il.)  
2001  
Museo Nacional del Prado y Fundación  
Amigos del Museo del Prado

[www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**