

# WHAT A TAILOR CAN DO!

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (52/85)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1797 - 1799

DIMENSIONES

218 x 151 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Aguafuerte, aguatinta bruñida, punta seca y buril

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

21 Dec 2010 / 29 May 2024

INVENTARIO

836 225

## INSCRIPCIONES

*Lo que puede un Sastre!* (at the bottom)

52. (in the upper right-hand corner)

## HISTORIA

See *Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, Painter.*

In the first printings, the exclamation mark in the title does not appear, which was later corrected.

The proof bears two handwritten numbers, 2 and 52, which could correspond to the hypothetical arrangement that Goya considered for this print.

A preparatory drawing of this engraving is in the Prado Museum.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A crowd kneels before a rickety tree covered with a monk's habit that looks like a gigantic puppet raising its arms. In the foreground a young girl is shown in adoration, the child behind her seems to be afraid, while others are praying and, in some cases, we see faces expressing withdrawal or indifference. In the sky, in the background, a group of witches can be seen flying.

This print can be read in two ways, in which the unifying element is appearance. On the one hand, it is a criticism of superstition, as can be seen in the manuscripts of Ayala and the National Library. However, the Prado Museum manuscript provides a second guideline for the interpretation of the engraving: "How often a ridiculous bug is suddenly transformed into a phantom that is nothing and appears to be a lot! So much can be the skill of a tailor and the foolishness of those who judge things by what they seem". In short, Goya censures those who rely on appearances without going into depth.

The Aragonese painter tackled this theme once again in engravings 66, *Strange Devotion!* and 67 *This is No Less* from the series *The Disasters of War*, in which he criticised the superciliousness and those who use sacred images to exalt their own image, to obtain a dimension and social projection which they do not really have.

A close analysis of the preparatory drawing for the engraving reveals modifications to the engraving designed to make the message of the print less obvious. Thus the artist concealed the clear reference to the monk by adding a topknot to the hood of the habit, which makes it look like a tied sack. He also sketched the witches flying in the sky that he developed in the print. In this way, the anti-clerical criticism is camouflaged under a scene of witchcraft.

One of the possible visual sources Goya could have drawn on for this image is the painting by Pierre Subleyras (Saint-Gilles-du-Gard, 1699–Rome, 1749) *Charon Passing the Shadows* (ca. 1735, Musée du Louvre, Paris), in which the Frenchman creates the spectral figures by means of an excellent *panneggio* work.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in rather poor condition, with the aquatint very worn (National Chalcography, no. 223).

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen. Graphik. Tapisserien**

Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953

from January 23th to April 12th 1953

cat. 238

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

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam 1970

from November 13th 1970 to January 17th 1971

cat. 38

##### **Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolutionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)**

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980

cat. 45

##### **Goya. La década de Los Caprichos**

Madrid 1992

organized by Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando sponsored by Fundación Central Hispano, Madrid, consultant editor Nigel Glendinnig. From

October 26th 1992 to January

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

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.

cat. 52, p.79

##### **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. 58

OCTOBER 2011 1992 to January  
10th 1993  
cat. 53

**Goya artista de su tiempo y  
Goya artista único**

The National Museum of Western Art Tokyo  
1999  
from December 1st to July 3th  
1999  
cat. 129

**Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris París 2013  
from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014  
cat. 160

2022

**BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

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

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1964  
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**Goya. El capricho y la  
invención. Cuadros de  
gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas**

MENA, Manuela B. y WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet  
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p.46, fig. 19  
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OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
Wilfredo  
p. 225  
2013  
Pinacoteca de París

CALVO RUATA, José Ignacio, BORRÁS GUALIS,  
Gonzalo M. and MARTÍNEZ HERRANZ,  
Amparo  
p. 188  
2017  
Gobierno de Aragón y Fundación Bancaria  
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**Goya e la tradizione italiana**

Fondazione Magnani Rocca Mamiano di  
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consultant editors Fred Licht  
and Simona Tosini Pizzetti.  
From September 9th to  
December 3th 2006  
cat. 52, p.158

**Goya: Order and disorder**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014  
cat. 168

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de  
Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p.182, cat. 555  
1970  
Office du livre

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

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)  
p.101, cat. 141  
1996  
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

**Goya: Order & Disorder**

ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie  
L. (comisarios)  
p. 255  
2014  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN  
MEDINA, Víctor

p. 44  
2022  
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación  
de Badajoz

**Goya. Opera grafica**

Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio  
Legnano 2006  
exhibition celebrated from  
December 16th 2006 to April 1st  
2007  
p.37

Madrid 2017

**Goya, la década de los  
caprichos: dibujos y  
aguafuertes**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet  
pp.87-90, cat. 52-54  
1992  
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San  
Fernando

**El libro de los caprichos: dos  
siglos de interpretaciones  
(1799-1999). Catálogo de los  
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José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel  
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**Goya. In the Norton Simon  
Museum**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet  
pp. 42-75  
2016  
Norton Simon Museum

**PALABRAS CLAVE**

**CAPRICCIO MONJES SUPERSTICIÓN CRÍTICA**

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**