

# MANUEL SILVELA

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1810 - 1813

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

95 x 68 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

04 Apr 2010 / 16 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

121 (P02450)

## HISTORIA

This portrait was probably made in Bordeaux after Goya had moved to the city, in which Silvela had already been living for over ten years.

It belonged to the subject's descendants: his grandson, Francisco Silvela; to his grandson's widow, Amalia Lorig; and later to his great-grandson, Jorge Silvela, Marquis of Silvela, who sold it to the Spanish Ministry of Development in June 1931. It was purchased to go into the

Prado Museum.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Manuel Silvela y García de Aragón (Valladolid, 1781-Paris, 1832) was born into a large family. He studied law and moved to Madrid, where he held the position of court judge during the French occupation. He and his family left for Bordeaux upon Ferdinand VII's return, in 1813. Joining them in 1823 was their good friend Moratín, followed by Goya a year later. In Bordeaux, Silvela founded a school for Spaniards and became one of the most influential of all the Spanish exiles. He moved to Paris with Moratín in 1827.

Opinions differ with regards the date in which this portrait was made. With its dark colour palette, neutral background and simple composition, the portrait fits in far more with those from the artist's final period than with those from around 1810, the date which this portrait was traditionally thought to have been painted. At this earlier date, the subject still held the post of judge, was yet to leave for France, and the Spanish War of Independence was still raging. In the portrait, with his grey head of hair, the sitter looks closer to forty-three, which would have been his age in Bordeaux in 1824, than to twenty-nine, which would have been his age in 1810. Furthermore, the relationship between Goya and Silvela would have grown closer following the artist's arrival in Bordeaux and thanks to the connection between them provided by Moratín.

Silvela is shown here sitting in a chair, the back of which is visible over his shoulder. He is turning to the right and his gaze is fixed in the same direction. He wears a grey overcoat, yellow waistcoat and white and blue scarf. This romantic clothing also favours the hypothesis that the painting was made at the later date.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya 1900**

Ministerio de Instrucción Pública and Bellas Artes Madrid 1900

consultant editors Aureliano de Beruete, Alejandro Ferrant, Marqués de Pidal and Ricardo Velázquez. May 1900

cat. 45

##### **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. 16

##### **Spanish paintings of 18th and 19th Century. Goya and his time**

Seibu Museum of Art Tokyo 1987

exhibited also at Seibu Tsukashin, Amagasaki; Iwaki City Museum Fukushima, Fukushima

cat. 39

##### **Pintura española de la primera mitad del siglo XIX**

Sociedad Española de Amigos del Arte Madrid 1913

cat. 152

##### **Tesoros del arte español**

Hemisfair'68 San Antonio 1968

cat. s/n

##### **Goya y el espíritu de la Ilustración**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1988

from October 6th to December 18th 1988. Exhibited also at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, January 18th to March 26th 1989; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nueva York, May 9th to July 16th 1989, Madrid curator Manuela B. Mena Marqués, scientific directors Alfonso E.

Pérez Sánchez and Eleanor A. Sayre

##### **Pinturas de Goya**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1928

consultant editor Fernando Álvarez de Sotomayor. From April to -May 1928

cat. 18 (60)

##### **Goya**

Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977

from April 12th to June 30th 1977

cat. 41

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

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996

consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996

cat. 168

**Goya y Moratín [En Burdeos, 1824 – 1828]**

Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao Bilbao 1998  
consultant editor Françoise García  
cat. 2

**Goya's last Works**

The Frick Art Collection New York 2006  
consultant editors Jonathan Brown and Susan Grace Galassi.  
From February 22nd to May 14th 2006  
cat. 11

**Goya y el Mundo Moderno**

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 2008  
organized by the Fundación Goya en Aragón at the Museo de Zaragoza, consultant editors Valeriano Bozal and Concepción Lomba Serrano. From December 18th 2008 to March 22nd 2009  
cat. 10

**Goya e il Mondo Moderno**

Palazzo Reale Milan 2010  
organized by SEACEX, Palazzo Reale and Fundación Goya en Aragón, consultant editors Valeriano Bozal and Concepción Lomba Serrano. From March 17th to June 27th 2010  
cat. 5

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Museo del Prado

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

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**