

# BOYS PLAYING AT SOLDIERS (MUCHACHOS JUGANDO A SOLDADOS)

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 (5/7)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1778 - 1780

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

146 x 94 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

23 Nov 2009 / 14 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

22 (P00783)

## HISTORIA

See *The Fair at Madrid*.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The tapestry resulting from this cartoon was made to be hung over a door, on the west wall of the bedroom, facing its companion piece, *Children with a Cart*.

Four children play at being soldiers, with rifles, a drum and a miniature church tower from the fair.

Children are a recurrent theme in Goya's work, and this was not the first time that he used them in decorative overdoor pieces - he did the same in the dining room of the palace of El Pardo, where the children were used to counterbalance the adult figures. Here, the children's games, so loaded with fantasy, can, according to Tomlinson, be tied to the fleeting nature of childish revelry and the madness of the adult spectacle represented in the neighbouring scenes.

By painting children in works designed to be hung above doors and windows, the artist did not need to drastically reduce the size of the figures, and the series maintained a more coherent appearance.

## 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

### Goya

Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977  
from April 12th to June 30th 1977  
cat. 7

### Goya

Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994  
consultant editors Juan J. Luna  
and Görel Cavalli-Björkman.  
From October 7th 1994 to  
January 8th 1995  
cat. 4

### Goya. 250 Aniversario

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd  
1996  
cat. 22

### Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014  
p. 197

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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1946  
Patrimonio Nacional

GUDIOL RICART, José  
vol. I, pp. 247-248, cat. 79  
t. I  
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### Francisco de Goya, cartones y tapices

ARNAIZ, José Manuel  
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1987  
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### L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols

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### Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.

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### Goya. 250 Aniversario

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
pp. 302-303, cat. 22  
1996  
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**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 las obras de Goya en los alzados de las paredes**

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SANCHO, José Luis

p. 170 (il.)

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Patrimonio Nacional, Goya 96, Lunweg

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**Cartas a Martin Zapater**

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Istmo

**Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794**

MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B. y MAURER,

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p. 197

2014

Museo Nacional del Prado

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**