

# PEDRO ROMERO KILLING A STANDING BULL

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: BULLFIGHTING(PRINTS AND DRAWINGS , 1814-1816) (30/46)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1814 - 1816
DIMENSIONES	245 x 354 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Aguafuerte, aguatina, punta seca y buril
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	02 Oct 2021 / 22 Jun 2023
INVENTARIO	964 -

## INSCRIPCIONES

30 (print, upper right-hand corner)

## HISTORIA

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*

The plate is kept at the National Chalcography (n° 363).

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*

Scene devoted to Pedro Romero (1754-1839), one of the most admired bullfighters of Goya's time and his favourite. We see him on the left in the foreground, about to enter to kill the

bull in front of him, which is logical, as the suerte de matar or suerte suprema was the one he mastered best and for which he was famous. Both the bullfighter and the bull are seen in profile, curiously illuminated between sun and shadow as they are positioned on the edge of the curved shadow cast by the unseen arena. In fact, one of the bullfighter's legs and the bull's hindquarter are powerfully illuminated because they are on this bullfighting frontier. In the background we see the barrier and some spectators behind it watching the bullfight covered with capes and hats to protect themselves from the sun.

Bagüés explains the suerte that the bullfighter is performing, a variant of the suerte de matar known as the suerte al volapié because the bullfighter entered very lightly to give the thrust. The position of the arm and the way of wielding the rapier reflect the imperfection of the technique, which had been invented a few years earlier by Costillares (1743-1800). In this connection, Lafuente Ferrari clarifies that the position of the bullfighter is not a mistake by Goya, but reflects the technical evolution of bullfighting, an opinion shared by Glendinning.

Lafuente Ferrari describes the print as sombre and at the same time luminous, clear, with a curved light that delimits the shadow in the sand and the framing of the bull and matador on the border between shadow and light. For Gassier, the sobriety of the print fits in with the sobriety of Pedro Romero's bullfighting, as this would be Goya's homage to his admired bullfighter. Martínez-Novillo, for his part, emphasises Goya's kind, affectionate and highly respectful treatment of Romero, depicting him at such a crucial and dignified moment as putting the bull to death.

Because of the luck depicted, the work is thematically related to two other prints by Goya linked to bullfighting which depict the luck of the kill or supreme luck: *A bullfighter entering to kill with a hat in his hand instead of a muleta (Bullfighting I)* and *A bullfighter plunges the rapier into the bull by the horn (Bullfighting L)*.

There is a preparatory drawing of the present print, also entitled *Pedro Romero killing a standing bull*.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Grabados y dibujos de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1946

catalogue Elena Páez Ríos

Boston 1974

1975

##### **Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional. Exposición de grabados y dibujos en el sesquicentenario de su muerte**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1978

May - June 1978

##### **Grabados de Goya: colección propiedad de la Biblioteca Nacional, que se conserva en su Gabinete de**

Casa de la Amistad de Moscú Moscow 1979

exhibition displayed from January 18th to 31st 1979

1984

Madrid 1987

Madrid 1990

##### **Goya grabador**

Fundación Juan March Madrid 1994

consultant editors Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez and Julián Gállego, from January 14th to March 20th 1994

##### **Goya grabador**

Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo Marbella 1996

from March 8th to May 5th 1996

Zaragoza 1996

##### **Ydioma universal: Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996

from September 19th to

December 15th 1996

**Schlaf der Vernunft. Original  
radierungen von Francisco de  
Goya**

Munich 2000

Madrid 2002

Madrid 2002

Bilbao 2012

**Goya: Order and disorder**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014  
cat. 100

Zaragoza 2017

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**Goya, toros y toreros**

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**Ydioma universal: Goya en la  
Biblioteca Nacional**

SANTIAGO PÁEZ, Elena y WILSON-BAREAU,  
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Museo Nacional del Prado

**Goya: Order & Disorder**

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p. 171  
2014  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

**Goya. In the Norton Simon  
Museum**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet  
pp. 186-201  
2016  
Norton Simon Museum

**PALABRAS CLAVE**

**TOROS TOREO TORERO DIESTRO MATADOR PEDRO ROMERO SUERTE DE MATAR SUERTE  
SUPREMA SUERTE AL VOLAPIÉ ESTOQUE RUEDO BARRERA**

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**