

# UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE (1ST DREAM)

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (43B/85)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1796 - 1797

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

247 x 172 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

17 Dec 2010 / 22 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

574 D. 3923

## INSCRIPCIONES

Sueño 1º (in pencil, recto; upper middle)

Ydioma universal. Dibujado y Grabado pr. Frco. De Goya año 1797 [front of the table] (in pencil, recto; lower left)

El Autor soñando. Su yntento solo es desterrar vulgaridades perjudiciales, y perpetuar con esta

*obra de caprichos, el testimonio solido de la verdad* (in pencil, recto; lower centre)

28 (in pencil, recto; lower left-hand corner)

3 (in red pencil; reverse, centre)

Watermark: H C Wend / & / / Zoonen

#### HISTORIA

The series of drawings known as *Dreams* is part of the preparatory studies that Goya made for engraving *The Caprices*, the first germ of which can be found in some of the drawings in *Notebook A* and *Notebook B*.

The sheets on which the *Dreams* are drawn show traces of having been passed through the press, which proves that they were intended to be engraved.

The series begins with *Dream 1: Universal Language*, as a frontispiece, although in the end its equivalent whim, *The Dream of Reason Produces Monsters*, was moved to number 43 in the set of engraved prints. The year 1797, which appears in this drawing, is key to the approximate dating of the entire series.

On the death of Francisco de Goya, the twenty-seven known drawings of the *Dreams* passed successively to his son Javier (+1854) and his grandson Mariano. They were acquired from him around 1861 by the collector and scholar Valentín Carderera. On his death in 1880 they were inherited by his nephew Mariano Carderera, from whom the Museo del Prado bought them by virtue of a Royal Order of 12 November 1886. The subjects they depict correspond to the following *Caprices*:

Caprice 5	Dream 19
Caprice 7	Dream 21
Caprice 11	Dream 28
Caprice 13	Dream 25
Caprice 14	Dream 15
Caprice 16	Dream 20
Caprice 18	Dream ¿24?
Caprice 27	Dream 18
Caprice 36	Dream 22
Caprice 39	Dream 26
Caprice 40	Dream 27
Caprice 43	Dream 1
Caprice 50	Dream ¿17?
Caprice 54	Dream 23
Caprice 57	Dream 11
Caprice 60	Dream 2

Caprice 62	<i>Dream</i> ¿10?
Caprice 63	<i>Dream</i> 8
Capricho 65	<i>Dream</i> 9
Caprice 66	<i>Dream</i> 5
Caprice 68	<i>Dream</i> 4
Caprice 69	<i>Dream</i> 6 y <i>Dream</i> 7
Caprice 70	<i>Dream</i> 3 (2 variants, on obverse and reverse)
No equivalence	<i>Dream</i> 14
No equivalence	<i>Dream</i> 16 (on the reverse side, sketch of the same subject)

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Between 1796 and 1797 he produced a series of drawings known as the Dreams, some of which have their starting point in the *Notebook B or Madrid Album*, in which some of the definitive prints of the *Caprices* series are defined with absolute fidelity. These drawings were made in pen and then transferred to copper, as the traces of the plate on the paper show, thus serving as a reference for the subsequent etching. This whole process demonstrates Goya's meticulous way of working when producing a series like the *Caprices*, starting from an idea sketched with brushstrokes, refining and defining the drawing to turn it into a preparatory drawing to be reproduced in the prints.

It was common practice at the time to use dreams as a means of expressing the world under the veil of the artist's imagination, without reference to concrete reality. Likewise, far from depicting specific characters or real situations, these prints are considered to be the fruit of the author's originality.

This is drawing number 1 in the series Dreams, which gives rise to *Caprice 43. The Dream of Reason Produces Monsters*.

The composition is more simplified than that of the preceding *preparatory drawing*. He eliminated the copper plate, the paint box and the faces, which were born of his imagination, as well as the donkey and the dog.

Goya portrays himself in the same pose on a simpler table without any tools on it. The title is written on his forehead, and below the drawing is an inscription explaining the meaning of the drawing.

In the upper left corner is a large arc of light emerging from the artist's head, next to it *mucielagos* and owls flying in the darkness, among which a larger bat with its wings spread out stands out. Next to Goya is the lynx that can be seen in the print, but not the black cat.

It shows traces of having been transferred to copper.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **The changing image: prints by Francisco de Goya**

Museum of Fine Arts 1974

From October to December 1974. Exhibited also at The National Gallery of Canada,

##### **Los dibujos de Goya**

Museo Provincial de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1978

exhibition organized by Museo Provincial de Zaragoza, Ministerio de Cultura and Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza,

##### **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,

Ottawa, January to March 1975  
cat. 73

### **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 10th 1993

cat. 6

### **Goya luces y sombras**

CaixaForum Barcelona 2012

consultant editors José Manuel Matilla and Manuela B. Marqués. From March 16th to June 24th 2012

cat. 3

exhibition guide written by Miguel Beltrán Lloris and Micaela Pérez Sáenz. October 1978

cat. 27

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

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996

from September 19th to December 15th 1996

cat. 121

### **Goya: Order and disorder**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014

cat. 161

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

cat. 51

### **Goya en tiempos de guerra**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008

consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués, from April 14th to July 13th 2008

cat. 20

Madrid 2019

cat. 3

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1966  
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### **El libro de los caprichos: dos siglos de interpretaciones (1799-1999). Catálogo de los dibujos, pruebas de estado, láminas de cobre y estampas de la primera edición**

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#### **PALABRAS CLAVE**

**FANTASÍA ONÍRICO SUEÑO ANIMALES NOCTURNOS CAPRICCIO**

#### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**