

# THE CARNIVOROUS VULTURE

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (76/82)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1820 - 1823

DIMENSIONES

177 x 221 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching, burin, drypoint and burnisher

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

04 Jan 2011 / 02 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

## INSCRIPCIONES

76 (*in the top left-hand corner*).

## HISTORIA

See *Sad forebodings of what is to come*.

In the third state test with drypoint and/or burin, some parts of the vulture have been shaded and reinforced. The outline of the gallows and the man's left hip and thigh have been reinforced with the burin line, with traces of the generalised false bite producing an aquatint

effect on the ground. The figures and the sky are burnished. The title of the print was handwritten by Goya on the first and only series known to us at the time of its production, which the painter gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Thus the title was subsequently engraved on the plate without any modification from Ceán Bermúdez's copy for the first edition of the *Disasters of War* published by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid in 1863.

A preparatory drawing of this engraving is in the Prado Museum

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In the centre of the composition a giant bird, a vulture as the title of the engraving states, runs in terror with its wings outstretched. Behind him a peasant threatens him with a pitchfork and further back we see a large crowd watching the scene.

This image is linked by its formal treatment with the previous one, No. 75, *Charlatans' Parade* and the following one, No. 77, *The Rope Breaks*. In all three, the compositional axis is a large figure extending its upper limbs.

As with the rest of the *Emphatic Caprices*, this engraving is very difficult to interpret. In some cases it has been thought that the vulture could be an allusion to the French army that was expelled from Spain by the people and, therefore, a reference to the end of the war. The animal is somewhat battered, with no tail or feathers, perhaps as a result of the harshness of the confrontation. The figures in the background who are fleeing in terror could be French soldiers who deserted.

Nigel Glendinning relates this engraving to a poem by Juan Bautista de Arriaza (Madrid, 1770-Madrid, 1837), *Prophecy of the Pyrenees* (1808), which was widely circulated during the War of Independence on account of its patriotic content. The Englishman was able to perceive certain analogies between the engraving of *The Carnivorous Vulture* and the stanzas of the *Prophecy of the Pyrenees* in which the following is said: "And flee among your warriors, / Like a band of butcher vultures". The English historian also believes that Goya may have been inspired by the work *Gli animali parlanti* (1801) by Giambattista Casti (Viterbo or Acquapendente, 1724-Paris, 1803).

One of the visual sources to which the Aragonese painter may have had recourse for this print is the engraving by Stefano della Bella (Florence, 1610-Florence, 1664) *The Ostrich Hunt* (ca.1650, Library degli Intronati, Siena) in which the animal with its wings spread out appears in the foreground. Della Bella closely captures the anguish of the animal about to be captured in a hunting scene, in which, until then, this aspect was completely irrelevant.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in the National Chalcography (cat. 327).

#### EXPOSICIONES

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

Rijksmuseum Rijksprentenkabinet Amsterdam  
1970

from November 13th 1970 to  
January 17th 1971

cat. 87

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

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980  
cat. 61

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

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996

exhibition celebrated from  
September 22nd to November  
17th.

cat. 76

##### **Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996**

Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996

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

Biblioteca Nacional Madrid 1996  
from September 19th to  
December 15th 1996

##### **Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra**

San Donato Milanese 2000  
Opere grafiche della Fondazione  
Antonio Mazzotta

from November 21st 1996 to  
January 1997

cat. 166

### **Goya: Prophet der Moderne**

Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005

from July 13th to October 3th  
2005. Exhibited also at the  
Kunsthistorischemuseum,  
Vienna, October 18th 2005 to  
January 8th 2006, consultant  
editor Manuela B. Mena  
Marqués

cat. 124

cat. 230

### **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013

from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014

cat. 115

cat. 156

#### **BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

### **Goya, grabador**

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de

cat. 178

1918

Blass S.A.

### **A solution to the enigma of Goya's emphatic caprices nº 65-80 of The Disasters of War**

Apollo

GLENDINNING, Nigel

pp.186-191

107

1978

### **Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum**

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 114-151

2016

Norton Simon Museum

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

HARRIS, Tomás

cat. 196

1964

Bruno Cassirer

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

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 299

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

### **Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

cat. 1126

1970

Office du livre

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
Wilfredo

p. 157

2013

Pinacoteca de París

#### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**