

THIN YARN

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: CAPRICHOS (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1797-1799) (44/85)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1797 - 1799

DIMENSIONES

219 x 153 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Aguafuerte, aguatinta, punta seca y buril

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

16 Dec 2010 / 29 May 2024

INVENTARIO

836 225

INSCRIPCIONES

Hilari delgado. (at the bottom left-hand corner)

44. (in the upper right-hand corner)

HISTORIA

See *Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, Painter.*

A preparatory drawing of this engraving is in the Prado Museum.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Three old women with gaunt, caricatured faces are depicted in this engraving. One of them, the one in the foreground, is seated on a chair and is spinning. Somewhat further back, an older woman with a deformed face is also seated and gazes into the void with an absorbed air. Finally, a third female figure appears in profile, holding a broom in one of her hands. In the background, on the right-hand side of the engraving, there are ropes hanging from the ceiling from which children, probably foetuses, are hanging.

The upper part of the body of the first old woman is intensely illuminated and contrasts with the dark atmosphere created by the use of two aquatints. The drypoint is used to accentuate the yarn and burin on the neck and back of the spinner in the foreground, as well as the legs of the chair.

Three manuscripts on *The Caprices* coincide in explaining this engraving as a depiction of a henchwomen plotting something, although they could also be witches. With this print Goya thus began the series of images devoted to witchcraft and superstition. This theme had already been dealt with by the artist in the series of paintings he produced for the Duke and Duchess of Osuna around 1798. In one of them, entitled *Aquelarre*, Goya depicted human foetuses hanging, in this case from a rod, which are also present in *Caprice no. 43, The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters*. It is possible that they play an important role in the incantations that these women prepare or "spin", as the title of the engraving suggests. It has also been suggested that the three women are the Fates - Nona, Decima and Morta - who weave the thread of life, probably of the children hanging from the ceiling, from birth to death.

If we relate this engraving to the following one, no. 45, *Much to suck*, especially with the explanations provided in the manuscripts, we can conclude that the three old women are engaged in abortive practices. It is possible that this has to do with the use of children's corpses in spells or witchcraft.

CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is in poor condition, with the aquatint practically missing (National Chalcography, no. 215).

EXPOSICIONES

**Goya. Gemälde
Zeichnungen. Graphik.
Tapisserien**
Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953
from January 23th to April 12th
1953
cat. 231

Francisco de Goya
Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996
exhibition celebrated from
September 22nd to November
17th.
cat. 44, p.71

Goya. Opera grafica
Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano
2006
exhibition celebrated from

**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. 55

**Francisco Goya. Sein
leben im spiegel der
graphik. Fuendetodos
1746-1828 Bordeaux.
1746-1996**
Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996
from November 21st 1996 to
January 1997
cat. 50

Goya et la modernité
Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013
from October 11st 2013 to March
16th 2014

Goya
Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994
consultant editors Juan J. Luna
and Görel Cavalli-Björkman. From
October 7th 1994 to January 8th
1995
cat. 65

**Goya e la tradizione
italiana**
Fondazione Magnani Rocca Mamiano di
Traversetolo (Parma) 2006
consultant editors Fred Licht and
Simona Tosini Pizzetti. From
September 9th to December 3th
2006
cat. 44, p.156

London 2015
cat. 30

December 16th 2006 to April 1st
2007

p.34

cat. 196

Expérience Goya

Lille 2021

cat. 59

2022

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás

p.117, cat. 79

1964

Bruno Cassirer

Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

p.181, cat. 539

1970

Office du livre

Goya, la década de los caprichos: dibujos y aguafuertes

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp.92-93, cat. 55

1992

Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

p.97, cat. 133

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

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

BLAS BENITO, Javier, MATILLA RODRÍGUEZ,

José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel

pp.246-249

1999

Museo Nacional del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,

Wilfredo

p. 262

2013

Pinacoteca de París

WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet y BUCK, Stephanie

(eds.)

p. 139

2015

The Courtauld Gallery

Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

pp. 42-75

2016

Norton Simon Museum

Expérience Goya (cat. expo)

COTENTIN, Régis

p. 118

2021

Réunion des Musées Nationaux

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN

MEDINA, Víctor

p. 43

2022

Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación de Badajoz

PALABRAS CLAVE

CAPRICCIO ALCAHUETAS VIEJAS BRUJAS

ENLACES EXTERNOS