

# THE FORGE (LA FRAGUA)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. VARIOUS SUBJECTS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1815 - 1820

UBICACIÓN

The Frick Collection. New York, New York, United States

DIMENSIONES

181.6 x 125 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

The Frick Collection

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

25 Apr 2010 / 15 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

325 (1914.1.65)

## HISTORIA

The work belonged to Javier Goya and was acquired by Baron Taylor for the Spanish Gallery of Louis-Philippe I of Orleans. The painting was then sold at Christie's of London in 1853 for the sum of 10 pounds. It belonged to Henry Clay Frick, the founder of the collection of which it forms a part today.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This genre painting depicts three men working in a forge, gathered around a fire. One of them has his back to the viewer, with his arms raised, brandishing a hammer as he prepares to strike the red hot plate on the anvil. A second man faces the viewer, while the third, older than the other two, seems to be carrying out a task requiring less physical effort. The attitudes of the bodies in tension and the violent movements they make give the scene great realism. Goya probably had the chance to observe similar scenes in the flesh which allowed him to capture this realism. In fact, there is a drawing in Album F with the same composition which may have been a study from life. The workers' attire contributes to the heightened drama, revealing the figures' muscular arms and chests, and denoting the suffocating heat which was associated with this kind of work.

Goya uses quite a dark palette for this work, and the use of black presages the artistic style of the artist's final years.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Expérience Goya**

Lille 2021  
cat. 31

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier  
vol. I, p. 285, cat. 264 NB  
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##### **Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
pp. 256, 266, cat. 965  
1970  
Office du livre

GUDIOL RICART, José  
vol. I, p. 352, cat. 682  
t. I  
1970  
Polígrafa

##### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

ANGELIS, Rita de  
p. 128, cat. 572  
1974  
Rizzoli

##### **Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.**

CAMÓN AZNAR, José  
vol. IV, p. 71 y p. 100 (il.)  
1980-1982  
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

##### **Expérience Goya (cat. expo)**

COTENTIN, Régis  
pp. 75-76  
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<http://collection.frick.org>

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS