

# THE BEDS OF DEATH (LAS CAMAS DE LA MUERTE)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (62/82)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1812 - 1815

DIMENSIONES

177 x 221 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Aguafuerte, lavis, punta seca, buril y bruñidor

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

20 Dec 2010 / 24 May 2023

INVENTARIO

836 225

## HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass* (*Tristes presentimientos de lo que ha de acontecer*).

The title was handwritten on the print by Goya in the first and only series that is known to have been printed at the time the works were created, which the artist gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Therefore, the title was etched into the plate at a later date and left

unchanged as of the first edition of the *Disasters of War* printed by the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1863, after the printing of the series in the possession of Ceán Bermúdez.

There is a surviving *preparatory drawing* for this print which is housed in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

In the middle of a street or another public place a female figure covered from head to foot passes by a group of corpses covered up with sheets. The viewer cannot see the woman's face, although it is clear that she is covering her nose to block out the stench of the bodies.

Goya has made some deep, dense marks in the background, creating a mesh effect in some areas that serves to intensify the darkness. The only light area of the print is the white tunic that completely covers the woman passing by the corpses.

Despite the simplicity of the composition and the fact that the lifeless bodies are depicted covered for the first time in the series *The Disasters of War*, Goya achieves an intense dramatic atmosphere in this work. The artist does not need to show the mutilated or emaciated, starved bodies in order to evoke a strong sensation of distaste and distress in the viewer. He also reiterates a gesture repeated in print no. 18, *Bury them and keep quiet* (*Enterrar y callar*), in which the figures depicted also cover their noses before piles of corpses that are most likely awaiting burial.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The plate is stored in the National Chalcography (cat. 313).

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya and his times**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963  
cat. 66  
cat. 250

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

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996  
exhibition celebrated from  
September 22nd to November  
17th.  
cat. 146

##### **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  
p. 179, cat. 62

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

San Donato Milanese 2000  
Opere grafiche della Fondazione  
Antonio Mazzotta  
cat. 142

##### **Goya et la modernité**

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013  
from October 11st 2013 to March  
16th 2014  
cat. 101

2022

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

##### **Goya, grabador**

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de  
cat. 164  
1918  
Blass S.A.

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

HARRIS, Tomás  
cat. 182  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

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

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
cat. 1098  
1970  
Office du livre

##### **Goya. Arte e condizione umana**

PAZ, Alfredo de  
lam. 213  
1990  
Liguori editore

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

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)  
cat. 276  
1996  
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca  
Nacional

##### **Francisco de Goya. Los Desastres de la guerra**

GALLEGO GARCÍA, Raquel  
p. 40  
2011  
La Central

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA,  
Wilfredo

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

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN  
MEDINA, Victor

p. 150  
2013  
Pinacoteca de París

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet  
pp. 114-151  
2016  
Norton Simon Museum

p. 82  
2022  
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación  
de Badajoz

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS