

# CHICKEN FIGHTS (LAS GIGANTILLAS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: SEVEN CARTOONS FOR TAPESTRIES FOR THE KING'S OFFICE IN THE PALACE OF SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL (7/7)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1791 - 1792

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid,  
Spain

DIMENSIONES

137 x 104 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

27 Dec 2009 / 14 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

72 (P07112)

## HISTORIA

See *The Wedding*.

Around 1856 or 1857, this cartoon was taken from the Royal Tapestry Factory to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870 the tapestry cartoons that were in the basements of the palace were moved to the Prado Museum, back then known as the Painting and Sculpture Museum.

It was then that six cartoons by Goya were discovered to be missing, including the one before us (see *Children with a Cart*). In 1913 this work was identified in a sale taking place in Paris, at the Galerie Marczell von Nemes. It was acquired by Baron Herzog, who gave it as a gift to Alphonso XIII, who in turn donated it to the Prado Museum, where it remains to this day.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The canvas shows some boys playing at climbing up on each other's shoulders. There are four children and one additional figure. The arrangement of the characters on the canvas follows the same pattern as in previous cartoons such as *The Parasol*, that is to say, a foreground with figures, a mound behind them, and more figures behind this obstacle, helping to create a sense of depth. A rural landscape occupies the background.

The balancing act of the children reminds the scholar Tomlinson of the moments of political instability that Spain was suffering following the French Revolution and its resulting oppression. Goya's contact with intellectuals did not go unnoticed in his works, and as such the heights to which these boys and the characters of other cartoons in the series climb only serve to remind us of the great fall that awaits them.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya**

Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen  
Mauritshuis The Hauge 1970

organized by Ministerio de  
Estado y Asuntos Culturales and  
Réunion des Musées Nationaux,  
July 4th to September 13th 1970.  
Exhibited also at the Musée de  
l'Orangerie des Tuileries, Paris,  
October 25th to December 7th  
1970, consultant editors  
Jeannine Baticle and A. B. de  
Vries  
cat. 12

##### **Exposición de pintura española del Renacimiento a nuestros días**

Tokyo 1976  
exhibited also in Hiogo and  
Kitayushu  
cat. 14

##### **Goya**

Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977  
from April 12th to June 30th 1977  
cat. 15

##### **Pintura española de bodegones y floreros de 1600 a Goya**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1983  
consultant editor Alfonso E.  
Pérez Sánchez, November 1983  
to January 1984  
cat. 41

##### **Goya**

La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo  
Gargallo Zaragoza 1992  
consultant editor Julián Gállego  
cat. 21

##### **Goya**

Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994  
consultant editors Juan J. Luna  
and Görel Cavalli-Björkman.  
From October 7th 1994 to  
January 8th 1995  
cat. 15

##### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd  
1996  
cat. 56

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

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014  
cat. 232

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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vol. I, p. 98, cat. 39  
1928-1950

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GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
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p. 217  
2014  
Museo Nacional del Prado

ANGELIS, Rita de  
p. 105, cat. 260  
1974  
Rizzoli

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TOMLINSON, Janis A.  
pp. 244, 249, 250 y p. 246 (il.)  
1987  
Cátedra  
col. "Ensayos de Arte Cátedra"

**Goya: Order & Disorder**

ILCHMAN, Frederick y STEPANEK, Stephanie L. (comisarios)  
pp. 334-335  
2014  
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Publications

vol. II, p. 91 y p. 61 (il.)  
1980-1982  
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

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LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
p. 337, cat. 56 y p. 142 (il.)  
1996  
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[www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**