

# THE DRUNKS (LOS BORRACHOS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: COPIES OF VELÁZQUEZ (PRINTS AND DRAWINGS, 1778-1785) (11/17)



*Pintura de Don Diego Velázquez con figuras del tamaño natural en el Real Palacio de Madrid, que representa un BACO fingido coronando algunos borrachos: dibujada y grabada por D. Francisco Goya. Pintor Año de 1778.*

## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1778

DIMENSIONES

315 x 430 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Etching

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

10 Nov 2010 / 27 Oct 2022

INVENTARIO

836 225

## INSCRIPCIONES

*Pintura de Don Diego Velázquez con figuras del tamaño natural en el Real Palacio de Madrid, que representa un BACO fingido coronando algunos borrachos; dibujada y grabada por D. Francisco Goya, Pintor Año de 1778* ("Painting by Don Diego Velázquez with life-size figures, in the Royal Palace of Madrid, which represents a false BACCHUS crowning some drunkards; drawn and etched by Don Francisco Goya, Painter, in the year 1778", at the bottom of the e

## HISTORIA

See Philip III.

Copies have survived from two different editions of this etching: the first and the third.

Handwritten on the third-edition prints, in the lower right-hand corner, we see the word Merelo. According to Harris, the third edition of *The Drunks* was announced in the third edition of the *Caprices*, in 1868.

The production of this etching was announced in the *Gazeta de Madrid* of the 28th July 1778.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

*The Drunks or The Triumph of Bacchus* was painted by Velázquez in Madrid and partially retouched upon his return there from his first trip to Italy, in 1631 (Prado Museum, Madrid). In the centre of the painting we see the god Bacchus - showing the influence of Caravaggio's (Milan, 1571-Porto Ercole, 1610) depiction of this same subject (Ca. 1598, Uffizi Gallery, Florence) - as he crowns one of the drunken men with whom he shares the scene. The inebriated state of the characters in the painting is given away by the foolish grins on their faces. Their rough clothing and common appearance contrasts with that of Bacchus, perhaps the only figure who seems to fit in well in a mythological painting. Velázquez has painstakingly represented the various glass and ceramic objects being used to hold the wine.

Goya's copy of this work is noticeably brighter and paler than the original. He has done away with the difference that existed between the pearly white flesh of Bacchus and the dark, coarse fabrics worn by the group of drunkards who accompany him. In so doing he has mixed together the two clearly defined areas that Velázquez had created in the image, and as such has provided a single unified space which is out of keeping with the original. He has even picked out the figure crouching down in the bottom left-hand corner, who is far less visible in the Prado painting. However, Goya demonstrates ample skill in his rendering of the folds of the fabrics, especially on the clothing covering the lower half of Bacchus' body.

As for the faces of the characters, we can appreciate a certain fixed quality about their expressions in Goya's etching, in which the shadows created on the left-hand side of each face in the original by Velázquez are largely absent, with the result that the features appear brighter and more exposed.

Despite his precise work, Goya has altered certain aspects of the painting which affect its interpretation, especially in his decision to do away with the painting's division into two distinct areas, which Velázquez uses to make reference to the two different worlds being depicted. Instead, Goya creates a single, evenly lit space, in which it is almost impossible to discern the location of the source of light.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The etching plate is conserved in the National Chalcography Museum (cat. 156). It came from the Fondo de Recuperación of 1948 (body created to recover works of art taken out of Spain during the Civil War).

#### EXPOSICIONES

Madrid 2017

Madrid 2019  
cat. 12

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

**Goya, grabador**  
BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de  
cat. 4  
1918  
Blass S.A.

**Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.**  
HARRIS, Tomás  
cat. 4  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**  
GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
cat. 88  
1970  
Office du livre

**Catálogo de las estampas de**

CALVO RUATA, José Ignacio, BORRÁS GUALIS,

MATILLA, José Manuel y MENA, Manuela B.

## **Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional**

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)

cat. 41

1996

Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

Gonzalo M. and MARTÍNEZ HERRANZ,

Amparo

p. 170

2017

Gobierno de Aragón y Fundación Bancaria Ibercaja

(comisarios)

pp. 68-69

2019

Museo Nacional del Prado

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

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

p. 33

2016

Norton Simon Museum

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**