HOLY FAMILY WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AS A CHILD

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. RELIGIOUS



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1775 - 1785
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	203 x 143 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	24 Jan 2010 / 07 Jul 2026
INVENTARIO	83 (P00746)

HISTORIA

This work was acquired by the Ministry of Development by Royal Order of 16 April 1877, at a price of 2,000 pesetas paid to Manuel Chaves y Loisa, and was entrusted to the Prado Museum five days later.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This work is difficult to date due to its singular characteristics, and there are different opinions on the matter. Carderera believes that this might be a piece known to have this theme painted by Goya for the Duke of Noblejas during the last years of his life, but this does not seem possible given the fact that this

rather classicist style does not fit in with the work Goya was creating at that time. Camón agrees with Buendía in dating the work at around 1774-1775. Morales observes echoes of the artist's Zaragoza period in this work, and finds similarities between it and *Triple Generation*. The most fitting period for this work seems to be the 1780s, during which Goya produced other classicist compositions influenced by Mengs. In fact, the figure of Jesus is executed in a similar style to that used by the neoclassicist for children in his paintings. Moreover, Goya has also employed blue and red in the Virgin's attire, colours which brought figures closer to the viewer, according to Mengs.

The scene shows Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the Infant Saint John arranged in a pyramidal composition. The treatment of light is close to that of its companion work, unpublished until recently, *Tobias and the Archangel Raphael* and *Holy Family* whose black backgrounds are lit by a light which seems to emanate from the figures themselves.

EXPOSICIONES

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Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 59

Goya
Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Barberini Roma 2000
consultant editors Lorenza Mochi Onori and Claudio Strinati. From March 18th to June 18th 2000
cat. 2

Goya e Italia
Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 2008
organized by the Fundación Goya en Aragóna, consultant editor Joan Sureda Pons. From June 1st to September 15th 2008
cat. 280

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Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado

PALABRAS CLAVE

SAN JOSÉ NIÑO JESÚS VIRGEN MARÍA SAGRADA FAMILIA

ENLACES EXTERNOS