

# CANNIBALS CONTEMPLATING HUMAN REMAINS (CANÍBALES CONTEMPLANDO RESTOS HUMANOS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. VARIOUS SUBJECTS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1798 - 1800

UBICACIÓN

Musée des Beaux- Arts et d' Archéologie de  
Besançon, Besançon, France

DIMENSIONES

32 x 47 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Óleo sobre madera

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie de  
Besançon

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

12 May 2010 / 15 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

382 (896.1.177)

## HISTORIA

Both this work and its companion piece, *Cannibals Preparing their Victims*, belonged to the painter Jean François Gigoux (Besançon, 1806-Besançon, 1894), who bequeathed them to the Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie in his home town.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

A cannibal sitting astride a rock holds up a human hand and a man's head like a pair of trophies. On the ground we can see more human remains, which the artist has drawn our attention to by means of energetic red brushstrokes. Meanwhile, other cannibals sat in front of and behind the central figure look on. The scene is set in a natural, rocky landscape, with the branch of a tree emerging from the darkness on the right-hand side.

Goya has painted the figures on that side of the central figure in an undefined manner, like some kind of living mass, from which no individual person clearly emerges. The faces of the figures are depicted in more detail but their features are primitive, almost simian in appearance. It is likely that the painter's intention was to highlight the barbarism of certain human actions, in this case the practice of cannibalism.

This work can be related to some of the prints in the Disasters of War series of etchings, such as no. 39, *Great deeds! With dead bodies!*, in which corpses and dismembered bodies have been hung from the branches of a tree.

For more information, see *Cannibals Preparing their Victims*.

## EXPOSICIONES

### **Peintures de Goya des collections de France**

Musée de l'Orangerie Paris 1938  
cat. 15

### **De Tiépolo à Goya**

Galerie des Beaux-Arts Burdeos 1956  
consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 7th to July 31st 1956  
cat. 120

### **Goya**

Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen Mauritshuis The Hague 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. 24

### **Goya en tiempos de guerra**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2008  
consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués, from April 14th to July 13th 2008  
cat. 25

### **Goya**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Burdeos 1951  
organized by the Bordeaux City Hall, consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 16th to June 30th 1951  
cat. 26

### **Goya**

Musée Jacquemart-André Paris 1961  
consultant editor Jean-Gabriel Domergue. From December 1961 to February 1962  
cat. 75

### **Goya. El Capricho y la Invención. Cuadros de gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1993  
from November 18th 1993 to February 15th 1994. Exhibited also at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, March 18th to June 12th 1994 and The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, July 16th to October 16th 1994, consultant editors Manuela B. Mena Marqués and Juliet Wilson-Bareau  
cat. 83

Agen 2019  
cat. 12

### **Goya**

Prado National Museum Madrid 1951  
July 1951  
cat. 10

### **Goya and his times**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1963  
cat. 66  
cat. 104

### **Goya: Prophet der Moderne**

Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin 2005  
from July 13th to October 3th 2005. Exhibited also at the Kunsthistorischemuseum, Vienna, October 18th 2005 to January 8th 2006, consultant editor Manuela B. Mena Marqués  
cat. 33

### **Goya**

Basle 2021  
p. 155

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

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GUINDOL RIBART, José

L'opera pittorica completa di

**Vie et œuvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 263, cat. 923  
1970  
Office du livre

**Goya. El capricho y la invención. Cuadros de gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas**

MENA, Manuela B. y WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet (comisarias)  
pp. 288, 289, 290 y 291 (il.), cat. 83  
1993  
Museo del Prado

**GODOL RICKART, JOSE**

vol. I, pp. 322 y 323, cat. 476  
t. I  
1970  
Polígrafa

**Los mundos de Goya (1746-1828)**

SUREDA PONS, Joan  
il. p. 246  
2008  
Lunwerg

**L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

ANGELIS, Rita de  
p. 117, cat. 409  
1974  
Rizzoli

**ENLACES EXTERNOS**