

# BULLFIGHT: SUERTE DE VARAS (CORRIDA. SUERTE DE VARAS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. VARIOUS SUBJECTS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1824

UBICACIÓN

The Paul J. Getty Museum, Los Angeles, United States

DIMENSIONES

50 x 61 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

The J. Paul Getty Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

03 May 2010 / 15 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

336 (93.PA.1)

## INSCRIPCIONES

*Pintado en Paris en Julio de 1824. / Por / D.n Fran.co Goya. / JMF* ("Painted in Paris in July of 1824 / By / Mr Francisco de Goya / JMF". Located on the back of the canvas).

## HISTORIA

This work was painted during Goya's visit to Paris in July 1824. He stayed in the French capital for three months after leaving Madrid, before moving to Bordeaux. The inscription on the painting referring to his stay was written by Joaquín María Ferrer, as indicated by his initials. It would have been painted at around the same time as the portraits of Ferrer and his wife, *Manuela Álvarez Coñas de Ferrer*, and it seems that he was the person who commissioned the work to Goya, with whom he had a friendly relationship.

The work was acquired from Ferrer for the collection of the Marquis of Baroja in Madrid some time before 1900. The painting was then passed by inheritance to the collection of the Marchioness of Gándara in Rome. On 9 December 1992 it was put up for auction at Sotheby's of London (lot no. 84), and was acquired by the Getty Museum.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Goya had addressed the theme of bullfighting on various occasions: in the "Caprice" *The Bullfight* housed in the San Fernando Academy, in the series of small paintings he produced during his convalescence in 1793, and in the series of prints called *Bullfighting*. In Bordeaux he would revisit to this subject, producing a set of paintings and the series of four lithographs *Bulls of Bordeaux*.

The scene captures the final moments of the stage of the bullfight known as the "suerte de varas". The background area of the composition is barely sketched in with light, watery brushstrokes which denote the walls of the bullring and the crowd of spectators. The execution of the figures in the foreground - bullfighters and picadores or mounted bullfighters - contrasts with the simple background, since these are depicted with thick, colourful brushstrokes. The group of bullfighters confronts the bull in a moment of great tension: Goya offsets the brutal activity of the men against the passivity of the animal, who is gazing off to one side. The horned beast is standing still, apparently with no intention of attacking anyone, while the picador, mounted on his badly injured horse, tries to provoke him, thrusting his lance at the bull. Another horse lies wounded on the floor, while further away, abandoned on the empty sand of the ring, we can make out the blurred outline of another. Goya has portrayed the animals in this painting as the real victims of the festival which so fascinated the painter.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Goya 1900**

Ministerio de Instrucción Pública and Bellas Artes Madrid 1900

consultant editors Aureliano de Beruete, Alejandro Ferrant, Marqués de Pidal and Ricardo Velázquez. May 1900  
cat. 119

##### **Goya**

Prado National Museum Madrid 1951

July 1951  
cat. 59

##### **Goya: toros y toreros**

Espace Van Gogh Arles 1990

displayed also at Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid, consultant editor Pierre Gassier.  
cat. 48

##### **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

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

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996

consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996  
cat. 167

##### **Goya's last Works**

The Frick Art Collection New York 2006

consultant editors Jonathan Brown and Susan Grace Galassi. From February 22nd to May 14th 2006  
cat. 22

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vol. I, p. 295, cat. 274  
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### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

ANGELIS, Rita de  
p. 135, cat. 660  
1974  
Rizzoli

### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
p. 433, cat. 167 y p. 275 (il.)  
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Museo del Prado

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BROWN, Jonathan y GALASSI, Susan Grace  
p. 153, cat. 22 y p. 155 (il.)  
2006  
The Frick Collection and Yale University Press

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

MENA, Manuela B. y WILSON-BAREAU, Juliet  
(comisarias)  
pp. 330, 381, cat. 112 y p. 331 (il.)  
1993  
Museo del Prado

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## ENLACES EXTERNOS