

THE FIRE AT NIGHT (EL INCENDIO DE NOCHE)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. VARIOUS SUBJECTS

SERIE: CABINET PICTURES (PAINTING, 1793 - 1794) (12/14)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1793

UBICACIÓN

Abelló Collection, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

43 x 32 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on tin

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

TITULAR

Abelló Collection

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

29 Apr 2010 / 22 Nov 2022

HISTORIA

Before arriving at its current location, this painting has belonged to a number of different owners, including: Ángela Sulpice y Chopinot, Madrid; the Count of Adanero, Madrid; the Marquis of Castro Serna, Madrid; the Duke of Campo Giro; and José Luis Várez, San Sebastián.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This scene, painted whilst Goya was staying at the home of his friend Sebastián Martínez in Cádiz, is set in an indeterminate space in which a crowd of people is fleeing from a fire, which can just be made out in the background. It takes place at night and the people are dressed in white nightclothes, caught unawares by the fire as they slept. Many of them have already perished, whilst others run away in fear or are carried along by other survivors.

The predominantly dark painting features two lighter-coloured areas. One of these, intensely bright and flecked by yellow brushstrokes, is the light given off by the fire, whilst the other, somewhat more tenuous and dynamic, is formed by the mass of human beings dressed in white, escaping from the flames. Just as he did in *The Shipwreck*, in the foreground Goya has placed a half-naked body, its torso slightly arched, extended out across the ground so as to grab our attention. This figure could have been inspired by the posture adopted by Abel as he

is being brutally murdered in the drawing that the artist made on page 31a of his *Italian Sketchbook*.

In this painting, Goya has done away with any spatial reference that might help the viewer to orientate themselves. This vagueness heightens the sensation of helplessness and produces an atmosphere of terror and distress. As such, it seems unlikely that Goya was referring to any specific event and it is reasonable to assume that this image, verging on the abstract, is an allusion to tragedies and disasters in general.

This work is directly related to the scene of a fire which Goya painted on and which is now in the National Fine Arts Museum in Buenos Aires. That later work is even more abstract and essential in its references.

See *Bulls in the Meadow*.

EXPOSICIONES

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. 14

Goya nelle collezioni private di Spagne

Villa Favorita Lugano 1986

consultant editor Marta Medina.
From June 15th to October 15th
1986
cat. 18

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. 39

Goya's Realism

Statens Museum for Kunst Copenhagen 2000

from February 11th to May 7th
2000
pp. 184-185, cat. 46

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. 30

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. 2

Goya: Order and disorder

Museum of Fine Arts Boston 2014

cat. 225

Goya

Basle 2021

p. 146

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Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet
p. 169, cat. 329
1970
Office du livre

Goya

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vol. I, p. 293, cat. 345
1970
Ministère d'Etat-Affaires culturelles y Réunion
des Musées Nationaux

L'opera pittorica completa di Goya

ANGELIS, Rita de
p. 169, cat. 329
1974
Rizzoli

Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.

CAMÓN AZNAR, José
vol. II, p. 70
1980-1982
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

Goya. Arte e condizione umana

PAZ, Alfredo de
p. 75, il. 63
1990
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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. 200, 201, 202, 203 y 205 (il.), cat.
1993

Goya e Italia, 2 vols.

SUREDA PONS, Joan (comisario)

vol. II, p. 155, il. 6

2008

Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

ENLACES EXTERNOS