

THE WOODCUTTERS (LOS LEÑADORES)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: TAPESTRY CARTONS: POPULAR SUBJECTS (PAINTING, DRAWING AND SKETCHES, 1778-1780). ANTE-BEDROOM OF THE PRINCES OF ASTURIAS, PALACE OF EL PARDO (10/13)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1779 - 1780

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

141 x 114 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

30 Nov 2009 / 14 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

33 (P00791)

HISTORIA

See *The Blind Guitarist*.

This cartoon was delivered to the Royal Tapestry Factory on 24 January 1780, along with ten other cartoons, completing the decoration of the antechamber to the bedroom. These eleven

tapestry cartoons – almost certain to have been made between 21 July 1779, when the artist delivered *A Stickball Game* and *The Swing*, and this delivery in January 1780 – were executed very rapidly. It is very likely that Goya was aware of the planned suspension of manufacturing work at the factory and was anxious to finish his commissions and receive his wages.

Around 1856 or 1857, the cartoon was moved from the Royal Tapestry Factory of Santa Bárbara to the Royal Palace in Madrid. In 1870, it was taken to the Prado Museum under orders given on 18 January and 9 February.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This overdoor piece decorated the north wall of the bedroom antechamber, where it formed a pair with another overdoor, *Majo with Guitar*.

José Manuel Arnaiz considers this cartoon to be a clear step backwards in the work of Goya. The use that the artist makes of the materials employed in the preparation of the canvas, incorporating them into the colour of the work, recalls the work of the first series of cartoons, in which the artist was yet to achieve the status of master painter. Only in the buckles of the shoes worn by main woodcutter can we see the Goya of his more recent, better works, says Arnaiz, and the influence of Antonio González Velázquez is very apparent. However, Camón Aznar is of the opinion that the compositional structure of *The Woodcutters* is magnificent, as are the earthy tones and the "glorious blue background" of the sky. Gudiol points out Goya's skill in depicting anonymous types.

Nordström relates this cartoon to melancholy and wintertime. Tomlinson goes further, comparing the woodcutters to a Cupid whose love goes unrequited, cutting off the dead wood from a tree that is just as sterile as his efforts to be loved.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya

Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977

from April 12th to June 30th 1977

cat. 9

Goya. 250 Aniversario

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996

consultant editor Juan J. Luna.

From March 29th to June 2nd 1996

cat. 31

Tapices y cartones de Goya

Palacio Real Madrid 1996

organized by Patrimonio

Nacional and Sociedad Estatal

Goya 96 at the Palacio Real,

Madrid, consultant editor

Concha Herrero Carretero. May

to June 1996

cat. 23

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Tapices de Goya

SAMBRICIO, Valentín de

pp. 116, 241, cat. 36 y láms. 132-133

1946

Patrimonio Nacional

L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols

DESPARMET FITZ – GERALD, Xavier

vol. I, p. 86, cat. 27

1928-1950

Goya, Saturno y melancolía. Consideraciones sobre el arte de Goya

NORDSTRÖM, Folke

p. 37

1962

Alquimis & Wiksell

Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet

pp. 76, 89, cat. 139

1970

Office du livre

GUDIOL RICART, José

vol. I, p. 249, cat. 95

t. I

1970

Polígrafa

L'opera pittorica completa di Goya

ANGELIS, Rita de

pp. 95-96, cat. 97

1974

Rizzoli

Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.

CAMÓN AZNAR, José

vol. I, p. 114 y vol. II, p. 32 (il.)

1980-1982

Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

Francisco de Goya, cartones y tapices

ARNAIZ, José Manuel

pp. 108-109, 281, cat. 40C y p. 109 (il.)

1987

Francisco de Goya. Los cartones para tapices y los comienzos de su carrera en la corte de Madrid

TOMLINSON, Janis A.

Espasa Calpe
col. "Espasa Arte"

pp. 153, 156, 157 y p. 154 (il.)
1987
Cátedra
col. "Ensayos de Arte Cátedra"

Goya. 250 Aniversario

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)
pp. 310-311, cat. 31 y p. 106 (il.)
1996
Museo del Prado

Salas del Palacio Real de El Pardo para las que se tejieron tapices sobre cartones de Francisco de Goya: identificación de las habitaciones y ajuste de las obras de Goya en los alzados de las paredes

in HERRERO CARRETERO, Concha (curator,
Tapices y cartones de Goya (catalogue of the
exhibition organized at the Palacio Real de
Madrid, from may to june 1996)
SANCHO, José Luis
p. 169 (il.)
1996
Patrimonio Nacional, Goya 96, Lunwerg

www.museodelprado.es

ENLACES EXTERNOS