

# UNHAPPY MOTHER! (MADRE INFELIZ!)

CLASIFICACIÓN: PRINTS

SERIE: DISASTERS OF WAR (PRINTS Y DRAWINGS, 1810-1815) (50/82)



*Madre infeliz!*

## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	Ca. 1812 - 1815
DIMENSIONES	157 x 206 mm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Etching, burnished aquatint and drypoint
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Undisputed work
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	15 Dec 2010 / 24 May 2023
INVENTARIO	836 225

## HISTORIA

See *Sad presentiments of what must come to pass*.

The title was handwritten on the print by Goya in the first and only series that is known to have been printed at the time the works were created, which the artist gave to his friend Agustín Ceán Bermúdez. Therefore, the title was etched into the plate at a later date and left unchanged as of the first edition of the *Disasters of War* printed by the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1863, after the printing of the series in the possession of Ceán Bermúdez.

There is a surviving *preparatory drawing* for this print which is housed in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

Two men are shown carrying the body of a woman who may have fainted from hunger. Next to these figures a child cries inconsolably, covering her face with her hands. In the background we can see a body on the ground, perhaps the corpse of a victim of the famine.

Goya uses aquatint for the sky and part of the ground: it is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins. The device creates an unreal, misty setting that heightens the drama of the scene. There are no spatial references in the work, although judging from the darkness it is likely that the scene takes place at night. The artist has placed three points of light in the middle of this darkness: one larger, light area in the centre of the composition comprising the men carrying the woman; another smaller one situated on the right, representing the small child crying, separated from her mother; and the last area of light in the background on the right, highlighting the abandoned corpse.

## CONSERVACIÓN

La plancha se conserva en la Calcografía Nacional (cat. 301).

## EXPOSICIONES

### Goya

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bordeaux 1951  
organized by the Bordeaux City Hall, consultant editor Gilberte Martin-Méry. From May 16th to June 30th 1951  
p. 73, cat. 8

### Goya. Drawings, Etchings and Lithographs

Goya. Drawings London 1954  
from June 12th to July 25th 1954  
pp. 8-10, cat. 64

### Goya. Das Zeitalter der Revolutionen. Kunst um 1800 (1980 – 1981)

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1980  
cat. 91

### Francisco de Goya

Museo d'Arte Moderna Lugano 1996  
exhibition celebrated from September 22nd to November 17th.  
p. 167, cat. 50

### Francisco Goya. Sein leben im spiegel der graphik. Fuendetodos 1746-1828 Bordeaux. 1746-1996

Galerie Kornfeld Bern 1996  
from November 21st 1996 to January 1997  
cat. 134

### Francisco Goya. Capricci, follie e disastri della guerra

San Donato Milanese 2000  
Opere grafiche della Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta  
cat. 130

### Goya. Opera grafica

Pinacoteca del Castello di San Giorgio Legnano 2006  
exhibition celebrated from December 16th 2006 to April 1st 2007  
p. 76

### 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. 109

### Goya et la modernité

Pinacothèque de Paris Paris 2013  
from October 11st 2013 to March 16th 2014  
cat. 89

Madrid 2017

Hamburg 2019  
cat. 104

2022

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA

### Goya, grabador

BERUETE Y MONET, Aureliano de  
cat. 152  
1918  
Blass S.A.

### Goya engravings and lithographs, vol. I y II.

HARRIS, Tomás  
cat. 170  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

### Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
cat. 1074  
1970  
Office du livre

### Catálogo de las estampas de Goya en la Biblioteca Nacional

SANTIAGO, Elena M. (coordinadora)  
cat. 259  
1996  
Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Biblioteca Nacional

### El Libro de los Desastres de la Guerra

BLAS BENITO, Javier and MATILLA, José Manuel  
II, pp. 98-100  
2000  
Museo del Prado

OROPESA, Marisa and RINCÓN GARCÍA, Wilfredo  
p. 144  
2013  
Pinacoteca de Paris

### Goya. In the Norton Simon Museum

WILSON BAREAU, Juliet

CALVO RUATA, José Ignacio, BORRÁS GUALIS, Gonzalo M. and MARTÍNEZ HERRANZ,

Amparo

TACK, Ifee and PISOT, Sandra  
p. 313  
2019

pp. 114-151  
2016  
Norton Simon Museum

p. 245  
2017  
Gobierno de Aragón y Fundación Bancaria  
Ibercaja

Hirmer

TORAL OROPESA, María and MARTÍN  
MEDINA, Víctor  
p. 71  
2022  
Museo de Bellas Artes de Badajoz y Diputación  
de Badajoz

#### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**