BOYS PLAYING AT SOLDIERS (MUCHACHOS JUGANDO A SOLDADOS)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. TAPESTRY CARTOONS

SERIE: CARDBOARDS FOR TAPESTRIES: THE MADRID FAIR (PAINTING AND SKETCHES, 1778-1780). BEDROOM OF THE PRINCES OF ASTURIAS, EL PARDO PALACE (5/7)



DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA	1778 - 1779
UBICACIÓN	The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain
DIMENSIONES	146 x 94 cm
TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE	Oil on canvas
RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA	Documented work
TITULAR	El Prado National Museum
FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN	23 Nov 2009 / 14 Oct 2026
INVENTARIO	22 (P00783)

HISTORIA

See *The Fair at Madrid*.

ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The tapestry resulting from this cartoon was made to be hung over a door, on the west wall of the bedroom, facing its companion piece, *Children with a Cart*.

Four children play at being soldiers, with rifles, a drum and a miniature church tower from the fair.

Children are a recurrent theme in Goya's work, and this was not the first time that he used them in decorative overdoor pieces - he did the same in the dining room of the palace of El Pardo, where the children were used to counterbalance the adult figures. Here, the children's games, so loaded with fantasy, can, according to Tomlinson, be tied to the fleeting nature of childish revelry and the madness of the adult spectacle represented in the neighbouring scenes.

By painting children in works designed to be hung above doors and windows, the artist did not need to drastically reduce the size of the figures, and the series maintained a more coherent appearance.

CONSERVACIÓN

The reddish preparation that Goya applied, sometimes covered with a thin glaze, has caused the work to darken over the years. Its colours now appear flat and lack the tonal range that they would have had originally.

EXPOSICIONES

Goya
Palacio de Pedralbes Barcelona 1977
from April 12th to June 30th 1977
cat. 7

Goya
Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994
consultant editors Juan J. Luna and Görel Cavalli-Björkman. From October 7th 1994 to January 8th 1995
cat. 4

Goya. 250 Aniversario
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996
consultant editor Juan J. Luna. From March 29th to June 2nd 1996
cat. 22

Goya en Madrid. Cartones para tapices 1775-1794
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 2014
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San Sebastian 2016
nº D.2

2016

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Cartas a Martín Zapater
GOYA Y LUCIENTES, Francisco de
p. 72, nº 8
2003
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SANCHO, José Luis
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ENLACES EXTERNOS