

# PEPITO COSTA Y BONELLS

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. PORTRAITS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1807 - 1808

UBICACIÓN

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,  
United States

DIMENSIONES

105 x 84 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

13 Apr 2010 / 16 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

198 (61.259)

## INSCRIPCIONES

*Pepito Costa y Bonells. Por Goya 18 [...]* ("Pepito Costa y Bonells. By Goya, 18[...] ", lower left).

## HISTORIA

This work was the property of José Costa y Bonells. It was later inherited by his niece, Matilda Quesada y Bayo de Fernández de Córdoba, Countess of Gondomar. After that, it was in a number of different collections and galleries: Galería Trotti, Paris; Knoedler, New York

and London; Mr and Mrs John W. Simpson, New York; Knoedler, New York; Andrew W. Mellon, Pittsburgh; Mr and Mrs Morton F. Plant, New York; Mrs Morton F. Plant, and then Mrs William Hayward, New York; Mr and Mrs Harrison Williams, New York; Mrs Harrison William, Paris, later Mona, Countess of Bismarck. It was donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1961.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The father of Pepito Costa (1802-1871) was Rafael Costa de Quintana, Ferdinand VII's doctor. His wife, and Pepito's mother, *Amalia Bonells*, was also painted by Goya. Pepito's grandfather, Jaime Bonells, was the Duchess of Alba's doctor.

Little is known about Pepito Costa except that he enlisted in the Local Voluntary Infantry in Madrid.

Here Goya has painted him as a child, when he was around five years old.

The boy is shown standing in front of a neutral background, where it is still possible to see the reddish primer that the painter typically applied to his canvases. He is wearing white dungarees underneath a green jacket with gold edging and decoration, in imitation of the uniforms worn by soldiers at the time. On his feet he wears yellow shoes with knots. In his left hand he holds a string that is tied to a toy horse, whilst in his right hand he grips a large military hat, with red and blue feathers. Behind him, a drum and other assorted toys complete the scene.

The boy's face looks straight out at the viewer with a serious and slightly nervous expression - perhaps in a premonition of what was about to occur, since the portrait was painted just before the start of the invasion by Napoleon's forces.

The light is falling directly on to the figure of the child, leaving the background in shadow where, although painted in long brushstrokes, the details of the toys are all recognisable, if somewhat blurred.

According to Juan J. Luna, all of the objects in the composition - with the exception of the toy horse - are depicted life size, minimizing the role of the child and in a way reducing his importance as the subject of the work.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Loan exhibition of Painting by El Greco and Goya**

M. Knoedler and Co. New York 1912  
April 1912  
cat. 18

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

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd  
1996  
cat. 140

##### **The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York: Chefs d'oeuvre de la peinture européenne**

Fondation Pierre Gianadda Martigny 2006  
from June 23th to November  
12th 2006  
cat. 29

##### **Grandes maestros de la pintura europea del Metropolitan Museum of Art**

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya Barcelona 2006  
consultant editor Katharine Baetjer. From december 1st  
2006 to March 4th 2007  
cat. 23

##### **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. 48

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

**L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols**  
DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier

**Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GUDIOL RICART, José  
vol. I, p. 369, cat. 662

p. 173, cat. 460  
1928-1950

### **Goya's portrait of Pepito Costa y Bonells**

Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art  
FAHY, Everett  
pp. 174-175  
31, 4  
1973

### **Goya en tiempos de guerra**

MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B.  
pp. 220 y 221 (il.), cat. 48  
2008  
Museo Nacional del Prado

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 262, cat. 895  
1970  
Office du livre

### **Francisco de Goya, 4 vols.**

CAMÓN AZNAR, José  
vol. IV, p. 13  
1980-1982  
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### **Goya. 250 Aniversario**

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
pp. 233 (il.), 410 y 411, cat. 140  
1996  
Museo del Prado

#### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**