

# HOLY FAMILY WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AS A CHILD

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. RELIGIOUS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

1775 - 1780

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid, Spain

DIMENSIONES

203 x 143 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Undisputed work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

24 Jan 2010 / 04 Nov 2024

INVENTARIO

83 (P00746)

## HISTORIA

This work was acquired by the Ministry of Development by Royal Order of 16 April 1877, at a price of 2,000 pesetas paid to Manuel Chaves y Loisa, and was entrusted to the Prado Museum five days later.

## ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

This work is difficult to date due to its singular characteristics, and there are different

opinions on the matter. Carderera believes that this might be a piece known to have this theme painted by Goya for the Duke of Noblejas during the last years of his life, but this does not seem possible given the fact that this rather classicist style does not fit in with the work Goya was creating at that time. Camón agrees with Buendía in dating the work at around 1774-1775. Morales observes echoes of the artist's Zaragoza period in this work, and finds similarities between it and *Triple Generation*. The most fitting period for this work seems to be the 1780s, during which Goya produced other classicist compositions influenced by Mengs. In fact, the figure of Jesus is executed in a similar style to that used by the neoclassicist for children in his paintings. Moreover, Goya has also employed blue and red in the Virgin's attire, colours which brought figures closer to the viewer, according to Mengs.

The scene shows Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the Infant Saint John arranged in a pyramidal composition. The treatment of light is close to that of its companion work, unpublished until recently, *Tobias and the Archangel Raphael* and *Holy Family* whose black backgrounds are lit by a light which seems to emanate from the figures themselves.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **The Age of Neoclassicism**

The Royal Academy of Arts London 1972  
cat. 79

##### **Antonio Rafael Mengs (1728 – 1779)**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1980  
consultant editor Xavier de Salas. From June to July 1980  
cat. 78

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

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1996  
consultant editor Juan J. Luna.  
From March 29th to June 2nd 1996  
cat. 59

##### **Goya**

Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Barberini Roma 2000

consultant editors Lorenza Mochi Onori and Claudio Strinati. From March 18th to June 18th 2000

cat. 2

##### **Goya e Italia**

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 2008

organized by the Fundación Goya en Aragón, consultant editor Joan Sureda Pons. From June 1st to September 15th 2008  
cat. 280

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

##### **L'œuvre peint de Goya. 4 vols**

DESPARMET FITZ - GERALD, Xavier  
p. 121, cat. 73  
1928-1950

##### **Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
pp. 77, 93, cat. 195  
1970  
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GUDIOL RICART, José  
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##### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

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p. 96, cat. 103  
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CAMÓN AZNAR, José  
vol. II, p. 82 y p. 195 (il.)  
1980-1982  
Caja de Ahorros de Zaragoza, Aragón y Rioja

##### **Goya. Pintor religioso**

MORALES Y MARÍN, José Luis  
p. 126, cat. 53A y p. 127 (il.)  
1990  
Diputación General de Aragón

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

LUNA, Juan J. (Comisario)  
p. 341, cat. 59 y p. 144 (il.)  
1996  
Museo del Prado

##### **Goya e Italia, 2 vols.**

SUREDA PONS, Joan (comisario)  
vol. II, p. 306, cat. 280  
2008  
Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

[www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado](http://www.museodelprado.es/goya-en-el-prado)

#### PALABRAS CLAVE

**SAGRADA FAMILIA VIRGEN MARÍA NIÑO JESÚS SAN JOSÉ**

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS