

# A BULLFIGHTER PLUNGES THE RAPIER BY GRABBING THE BULL BY A HORN (BULLFIGHTING L) (PREPARATORY DRAWING)

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: BULLFIGHTING(PRINTS AND DRAWINGS , 1814-1816) (45B/46)



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1814 - 1816

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid,  
Spain

DIMENSIONES

187 x 289 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

03 Oct 2021 / 22 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

2115 (D4306)

## INSCRIPCIONES

9 (in pencil, lower left corner)

1 (reverse, centre)

228 (reverse, lower left)

37 (reverse, top centre)

42 (reverse, top)

*Unpublished* (reverse, upper middle)

#### HISTORIA

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*.

This preparatory drawing passed by inheritance in 1828 to Javier Goya, the painter's son, and in 1854 to Mariano Goya y Goicoechea, the artist's grandson. It was subsequently owned by Valentín Carderera (ca. 1861) and Mariano Carderera (1880). In 1886 it was acquired from Mariano Carderera, along with many other drawings by Goya, including almost all the preparatory studies for the *Bullfight*, by the Directorate General of Public Instruction, and was assigned to the Prado Museum, where it entered on 12 November 1886.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

See *How the ancient Spaniards hunted bulls on horseback in the countryside*.

Preparatory drawing for the print *A bullfighter plunges the rapier by grabbing the bull by a horn* (*Bullfighting L*). This preparatory study is very similar to the later engraving, as it will be transferred to the plate with remarkable fidelity. Goya retained the composition present here, although slight changes were made, such as the removal of a secondary group of figures.

The scene shows the moment in which the bullfighter is thrusting his rapier at the bull while grabbing a piton with his other hand. The bull's gesture is the same as in the later engraving: he seems to be leaping forward, facing the bullfighter. Already in the foreground is the subalterno with a cape who seems to be moving away from the main action. In the background we see a figure with a hat and cape, with his back turned, with another figure and a dead horse to one side. Another secondary group is to the left of the previous one. It will be suppressed in the print to lighten the composition and make it easier to read. In the background are the barrier with some of the figures behind it, and the bullring with the audience, although it is very sketchy, so it does not give the impression of a mass.

The light in the preparatory study is still different from that in the later engraving, which is more intense and extensive than in the present one.

The present drawing is affixed to a second laid paper belonging to a French army record book in Spain.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

The paper still has creases from the press.

#### EXPOSICIONES

**Goya. Gemälde Zeichnungen.  
Graphik. Tapisserien**

Kunsthalle Basel Basle 1953

from January 23th to April 12th  
1953

cat. 102

cat. 50

cat. 50

cat. 50

cat. 50

cat. 50

**Goya: toros y toreros**

Espace Van Gogh Arles 1990

Madrid 1990

displayed also at Academia de

displayed also at Academia de  
Bellas Artes de San Fernando,  
Madrid, consultant editor Pierre  
Gassier.  
cat. 43-44

#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA

SÁNCHEZ CANTÓN, Francisco Javier  
cat. 192  
1954  
Museo del Prado

HARRIS, Tomás  
vol. II, 1964, p. 362, cat. 247a  
1964  
Bruno Cassirer

#### **Vie et ouvre de Francisco de Goya**

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 281, cat. 1242  
1970  
Office du livre

#### **Dibujos de Goya, 2 vols**

GASSIER, Pierre  
pp. 426-427, cat. 288  
1975  
Noguer

#### **El mundo de Goya en sus dibujos**

LAFUENTE FERRARI, Enrique  
pp.211-212  
1979  
Urbión

HOLO, Selma Reuben  
p. 20  
1986  
Milwaukee Art Museum

MATILLA, José Manuel y MEDRANO, José Miguel  
pp. 110-111  
2001  
Museo Nacional del Prado

#### PALABRAS CLAVE

**SUBALTERNO MUERTE CABALLO BARRERA RUEDO CUERNO ESTOQUE SUERTE SUPREMA  
SUERTE DE MATAR MATADOR DIESTRO TORERO TOREO TOROS**

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS