

# VIRGIN OF THE PILLAR (VIRGEN DEL PILAR)

CLASIFICACIÓN: EASEL PAINTING. RELIGIOUS



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1772 - 1775

UBICACIÓN

Museum of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain

DIMENSIONES

56 x 42 cm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

Oil on canvas

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

Museo de Zaragoza

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

07 Jan 2010 / 13 Jun 2023

INVENTARIO

75 (9259)

## HISTORIA

This work was presumably created for one of Goya's relatives as a devotional painting. It was inherited by Ms. Francisca Lucientes, a descendent of his uncle Miguel, his mother's brother.

The Royal Academy of Noble and Fine Arts of San Luis acquired the canvas from the Lucientes family in 1926, together with another dedicated to the death of Saint Francis Xavier, and both works were entrusted to the Museum of Zaragoza.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The Virgin of the Pillar is placed at the centre of the composition, standing out against the ray of light which she herself is emitting. The painting has the air of a sketch, the shapes being described with the tip of the brush. The virgin is raised up on the holy column, surrounded by a host of putti which fly around her. Other little angel heads melt into the background, moving into grisaille tones and blurring into the clouds. The painting is dominated by pastel tones which sweeten the scene, giving it a rococo character.

A preparatory sketch for this painting can be found in the *Italian Sketchbook*, which proves its authenticity, although the artist did modify the original basic concept.

The painting has caused some confusion regarding its date and dimensions. The majority of studies record its dimensions as being 78 x 52 cm, when in fact the work is smaller than that. With regard to dating, Antonio Beltrán proposes a date of 1775-1780, Camón and Buendía bring that forward to 1773, while Gudiol believes this to be an earlier work from 1780-1781. Today, it is considered to have been completed in Zaragoza following the artist's return from Italy in 1771 but before his move to Madrid in 1775. This chronology is supported by the sketch found in the *Italian Sketchbook*.

In terms of the painting's provenance, its identical size and the similarities between the putti in this work and *The Death of Saint Francis Xavier*, also housed in the Museum of Zaragoza, suggest that they are a pair.

#### CONSERVACIÓN

This painting underwent restoration work at the Institute of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICRBC) in Madrid in 1982. The piece displayed severe craquelure and blistering in its layers which had caused the loss of some of the paintwork.

As a result, it was necessary to clean the image, allowing the recovery of the original tones, while the heads of two putti were reconstructed using the regattino technique.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### **Exposición de obras de Goya y de objetos que recuerdan las manufacturas artísticas de su época**

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1928

organized by la Real Academia de Nobles y Bellas Artes de San Luis in collaboration with the Junta del Patronato del Museo Provincial. April 1928

cat. 462

##### **Goya**

La Lonja, Torreón Fortea y Museo Pablo Gargallo Zaragoza 1992

consultant editor Julián Gállego

cat. 5

##### **Goya joven (1746-1776) y su entorno**

Museo e Instituto Camón Aznar Zaragoza 1986

consultant editor José Rogelio Buendía. November 21st to December 20th 1986

cat. 33

##### **Goya (1746 – 1828)**

Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna di Ca'Pesaro Venecia 1989

consultant editor Antonio Fortún Paesa. From May 7th to July 4th 1989

cat. 10

##### **Goya. El Capricho y la Invención. Cuadros de gabinete, bocetos y miniaturas**

Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid 1993

from November 18th 1993 to February 15th 1994. Exhibited also at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, March 18th to June 12th 1994 and The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, July 16th to October 16th 1994, consultant editors Manuela B. Mena Marqués and Juliet Wilson-Bareau

cat. 4

##### **Goya**

Nationalmuseum Stockholm 1994

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

cat. 1

### **Goya en Ponce**

Museo de Arte de Ponce Ponce 1995  
consultant editor María Luisa  
Cancela Ramírez Arellano. From  
May 13th to September 30th  
1995

### **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. 200

### **El Pilar es la Columna. Historia de una devoción**

La Lonja Zaragoza 1995  
organized by Gobierno de  
Aragón and Diputación  
Provincial de Zaragoza. From  
October 7th 1995 to January 7th  
1996

### **Goya y Zaragoza (1746-1775). Sus raíces aragonesas**

Museo Goya. Colección Ibercaja Zaragoza  
2015  
cat. 11

### **Realidad e imagen. Goya 1746 – 1828**

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 1996  
consultant editor Federico  
Torrallba Soriano. From October  
3th to December 1st 1996  
cat. 11

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#### **L'opera pittorica completa di Goya**

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pp. 68-69, cat. 11  
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SUREDA PONS, Joan (comisario)  
vol. II, p. 261, cat. 200  
2008  
Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

#### **Goya y Zaragoza (1746-1775). Sus raíces aragonesas**

MENA MARQUÉS, Manuela B. et al.  
pp. 126-127  
2015  
Fundación Goya en Aragón, Ibercaja y  
Gobierno de Aragón

#### **PALABRAS CLAVE**

**VIRGEN DEL PILAR**

#### **ENLACES EXTERNOS**