

FRANCESCO DE GOYA

Spanish school, 1746 - 1828.

The full name of this artist was Francesco José de Goya y Lucientes. He was born in March 1746 in the village of Fuendetodos near Saragossa. His father was a master gilder by trade. Spending his early years in the village, Goya did some painting in the local church. Around 1760 he moved with his parents to Saragossa. There he studied with José Luzan for several years, mostly ~~studying~~ prints, but devising some compositions of his own. Late in 1763 he competed for a scholarship at the San Fernando Academy in Madrid ; and in 1766 he is recorded in Madrid, where he probably studied for a short while with Francesco Bayeu, a pupil of Luzan. He went to Italy at his own expense, perhaps in 1769, and probably visited France on the way. In 1771 he is mentioned as being in Rome, but was back in Saragossa later in the same year. He worked at this period for several churches in that region. In 1773 he married Josepha Bayeu, Francesco's sister, and the next year he was summoned to Madrid by Anton Raphael Mengs. By 1775 he had settled there. He did etchings after Velasquez and, more important, began in 1776 for the Royal tapestry works the first of series of cartoons which he continued painting until 1791. In 1780 he was elected to the Academy and began to get commissions for portraits from the King's brother, the Infante Don Luis, the Dukes of Osuna and others. In 1785 he became deputy director of the Academy. The next year he was appointed painter to the King, and in 1791 "primer pintor del camera" ; he would continue in those posts through succeeding reigns, spending most of his time in Madrid. An attack of paralysis in 1792-93 left him deaf ; but after his convalescence he obtained further commissions, and his public career reached its height in the early years of the nineteenth century. In 1808, during the Napoleonic Wars, he witnessed the siege of Saragossa, which left a deep impression on him and led to his series of etching The Disasters of War. He served nevertheless under Joseph Bonaparte, but avoided compromising himself publicly and made at least one unsuccessful attempt to

Goya, cont.

leave the country. After the war he was cleared of the charge of collaboration and reinstated as court painter to Ferdinand VII. Unsympathetic to the monarchy, however, he ultimately went into exile in France, spending his last years from 1824-28 mainly in Bordeaux, with visits to Madrid and Paris. He died in Bordeaux.

Portrait of a Little Girl

oil on canvas, 26x21 ins.

Condition

Badly rubbed and repainted.

Provenance

* ~~Don~~ Don Esteban Esqueu, Havana (?) ; Count Pudgorsky, New York. ⁽¹⁾ Acquired by Dr Clowes in 19 .

Literature

M.Soria, Agustin Esteve, y Goya, Valencia, 1957, p.90, no.16 and pl.33.

Exhibited

Goya, Zurbaran and Spanish Primitives, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, New York and Atlanta Art Association Galleries, Georgia, Feb.-Mar.1957, no.36 (no.34 in Addenda to later ed.) ; Ind., 1959, no.29.

Attributed to Goya by J.Lopez-Rey (1947)⁽²⁾ as a work of around 1785-87. Soria⁽¹⁾ considered it to be by Agustin Esteve (1753 - 1820 or later) and dated it around 1790-1800. The costume suggests an earlier date for this work, around 1775-85⁽³⁾. It may possibly be by Esteve, but this is uncertain.⁽⁴⁾

Notes.

1. Said by him, at the time of purchase, to have a provenance going back to 1788 : "painted for the Governor of Vizcaya, Spain, Anzotegui, 1788 ; Don Aniceto Amat, Barcelona ; Don Esteben Esquu, Havana ; Mrs Mercedes Esque Reinhardt". These details cannot be verified.
2. Expertise of Jun.6, 1947, Clowes archives.
3. Cf. the portrait by Goya in the Prado of the Infanta Carlota Joaquina, who was born in 1775 (Goya and his Times, Royal Academy, London, winter 1963-64, cat.no.36 ; E.M.Aguilera, Pintores Españoles del Siglo XVIII, Barcelona, 1946, pl. xxxviii). I am grateful to E.Sayre for her assistance here.
4. A.Sánchez-Peréz of the Prado kindly gave the compiler his opinion to this effect (orally, 1966).