



# Witness: Reality and Imagination in the Prints of Francisco Goya



The Philadelphia Museum of Art highlights Francisco de Goya's Print Series depicting his vision of Spanish life.

Francisco Goya witnessed decades of political turmoil and social upheaval as court painter to four successive rulers of Spain. Among his greatest achievements were four series of etchings that chronicle the transformation of Spanish society and his own personal visions: *Los Caprichos* (*The Caprices*), *Los Desastres de la Guerra* (*The Disasters of War*), *La Tauromaquia* (*Bullfighting*), and *Los Disparates* (*The Follies*). Near the end of his life, Goya also produced a set of four grand lithographs known as the *Bulls of Bordeaux*.

This exhibition highlights prints from each series, exploring the imagery and techniques that make Goya one of the greatest graphic artists of all time.

From the chaos of war to the spectacle of the bullfight, the prints in the exhibition show Goya's remarkable ability to move between documentary realism and expressive invention. Unlike his commissioned paintings, his graphic works allowed him the freedom to explore provocative subjects such as prostitution, witchcraft, and political corruption. This exhibition also highlights how Goya pushed the limits of printmaking to heighten the expressive effect of his subjects.

A variety of [special events](#), such as tours and in-gallery participatory conversations, will take place in conjunction with this exhibition.

VISUAL ARTS  
PHILADELPHIA

Mon, May 22–  
Wed, September 06, 2017

## Venue

Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia, PA 19130

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## Admission

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## Credits

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