



Dreams and fury of a visionary:


Goya



Francisco Goya

Unlike many of the leading figures of the art world, Francisco Goya cannot be really placed in any specific artistic movement or historical period. On the one hand he is close to the late Baroque and to Neoclassicism, on the other his opus shows themes typical of the Age of Enlightenment, anticipations of romantic philosophy and reflections on modernity. In a politically and socially backwards Spain, Goya is a witness (in Argan's words) "of sharp mind and of moral and political dignity", as well as a precursor of the anguish and reflections of the XIX and XX century.

In the artistic journey of the Spanish master, engraving acts as a cultural and stylistic synthesis of his iconography, and Goya revolutionises its techniques too. A true etching virtuoso, the Spanish artist is equally versed in drypoint and burin and experiments successfully with aquatint. Goya's work is a real turning point in the history of printmaking and his



influence can be traced across the entire XIX century and even in the XX century, as far as into German Expressionism.

The exhibition presented here follows in a remarkably complete fashion the entire span of Goya's life. In the *D'après Velazquez* series (1778-82) the artist pays tribute to his master with eleven extraordinary etchings. The second series are the *Caprichos*, completed in 1798. Rooted in Enlightenment rationality, these exceptional plates nevertheless prefigure more modern anxieties and irrationalities. Goya's satire uncovers the evils, prejudices and deceits of the Spain of his times, which are the same evils, prejudices and deceits of any society.

The exhibition includes also the famous *The Disasters of War*, a set of aquatints begun in 1810 and completed in 1823. The series, inspired by the napoleonic invasion of Spain, condemns every war as an act of brutality and devastation. Also included is the wonderful *La Tauromaquia* (1814-15), a primeval fight between life and death, not set in mythological times, but amongst the bullfighting in Spanish villages. The exhibition ends with *Los Disparates*, a series of prints created by Goya between 1815 and 1818. This set is a rip in the artist's soul, through which breaks that same irrationality and mania, which will revolutionise Western art, becoming one of its defining themes up to the XX century.



Works on Exhibit:

D'après Velasquez (1778-1782)

7 works - etching

Los Caprichos (1797-1798)

80 works - etching

Los desastres de la guerra (1810-1823)

80 works - etching

Tauromaquia (1814-1815)

40 works - etching, aquatint, drypoint and bulin

Los Disparates (1815-1818)

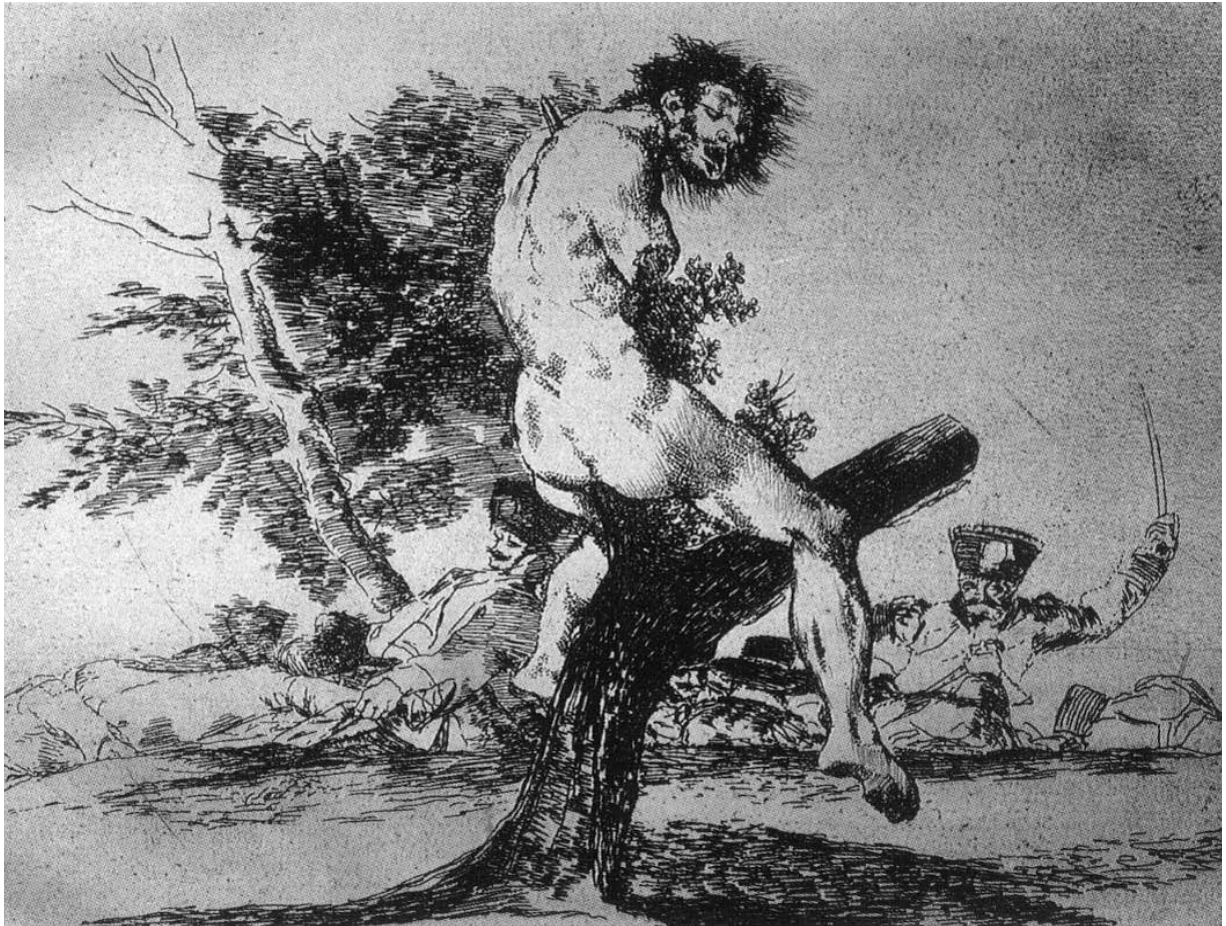
18 works - etching



D'APRÈS VELASQUEZ
(1778-1782)



LOS CAPRICHOS
(1797-1798)



LOS DESASTRES DE LA GUERRA
(1810-1823)



TAUROMAQUIA
(1814-1815)



LOS DISPARATES
(1815-1818)