



# GOYA

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## *The Disasters of War*

**FEBRUARY 28–JUNE 8, 2014**

This exhibition features a complete first edition of the canonical series of etchings *Los Desastres de la Guerra*, or *The Disasters of War*, made by Spanish artist Francisco Goya y Lucientes (1746–1828) between 1810 and 1820. The eighty-one prints respond to the horrors surrounding the Peninsular War of 1808–14 between Spain and Napoleonic France and are grouped into three main sections: the effects of the war; the Madrid famine of 1811–12; and the political debates within Spain that followed the expulsion of French forces in 1813. Perhaps because of their criticism of both France and the Spanish crown, or the acknowledgment that such gruesome images would not find buyers, the etchings were not published until 1863, thirty-five years after the artist's death. Noted Goya scholar Janis Tomlinson, curator of the exhibition, offers a new sequence for the images based on Goya's stylistic evolution and their relation to historical events.

*The Disasters of War* remains compelling in the modern day because it broke from a tradition in Western European art that exalted military heroes or leaders to focus on the negative effects war has on ordinary soldiers and civilians. Indeed, in Goya's masterpiece there are few heroes; rather we are reminded of the atrocities that humans are capable of inflicting on one another.

*Goya: The Disasters of War* is a collaboration of the Pomona College Museum of Art and the University Museums of the University of Delaware. It is curated by Janis Tomlinson, Director, University Museums, and circulated by the Pomona College Museum of Art.



The Frist Center for the Visual Arts is a nonprofit art exhibition center supported in part by:



Cover: Francisco Goya. *Y no hai remedio (And There Is No Remedy)* from *The Disasters of War*, ca. 1811–12 (1st edition, printed 1863). Etching, drypoint, burin, and lavis, 5 11/16 x 6 1/2 in. Pomona College Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. Norton Simon, P74.67