



Seeing History Through Artists' Eyes

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Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ET

Session 3: The French Revolution & Napoleon: Contrasting Visions of David and Goya

I. Chronology of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars

- a. Storming of the Bastille (1789) to the July Revolution (1830)

II. Jacques-Louis David (1748-1825) – “the most political artist in history”; neoclassicism

- a. Before the Revolution: Oath of the Horatii, 1784 (Louvre); Death of Socrates, 1787 (Met, NY)
- b. During the Revolution: Oath of the Tennis Court, 1789- (Musée Carnavalet, Paris); Death of Marat, 1793 (Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels)
- c. Prison and after: Portraits, 1795; Intervention of the Sabine Women, 1796-99 (Louvre)
- d. Napoleon – Revolutionary Hero to Dictator: Napoleon Crossing the Alps, 1801 (Chateau de Malmaison); Coronation of Napoleon in 1804, 1808 (Louvre); Emperor Napoleon in his Study at the Tuileries, 1812 (National Gallery of Art, DC)



III. Francisco de Goya (1746-1828) – court painter under Spanish King Charles III and Charles IV

- a. The Disasters of War, 1810-1820
- b. The Second of May 1808, 1814 (Prado, Madrid)
- c. The Third of May 1808, 1814 (Prado, Madrid)

IV. Reconsidering the Revolution: What to remember? How? Why?

- a. David and Goya: Enlightenment humanists, propagandists?
- b. Antoine-Jean Gros, student of David (1771-1835)
 - i. Bonaparte at the Pont d'Arcole, 1796 (The Hermitage, St. Petersburg)
 - ii. Napoleon Visiting the Plague Victims of Jaffa, 1804 (Louvre)
 - iii. Napoleon Accepts the Surrender of Madrid in 1808, 1810 (Palace of Versailles)
- c. Paul Delaroche (1797-1856)
 - i. Bonaparte Crossing Alps, 1850 (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)
 - ii. Napoleon Abdicating at Fontainebleau, 1845 (Museum of Fine Arts, Leipzig)
- d. France today: How is Napoleon remembered?

V. Reconsidering the National Gallery's Napoleon in His Study

Suggested Readings:

- Robert Hughes, *Goya*. New York, 2004.
- Janis Tomlinson, *Goya: A Portrait of the Artist*. Princeton U Press: 2020.
- Warren Roberts, *Jacques-Louis David, Revolutionary Artist: Art, Politics, and the French Revolution*. 1989.
- Jacques Louis David, *Radical Draftsman*. Metropolitan Museum of Art. 2022