

Thursday, July 27, 1989

Goya ethching exhibit inspires nightmarish visions in viewers

Display housed in MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

By Chip Sowden

GUEST REVIEWER

Don't look too hard, or you won't be able to sleep at night.

The nightmarish visions that are Francisco Goya's "The Proverbs," on display now through August 20 at Texas A&M's Forsyth Center Galleries in the MSC, are a fantastic, grotesque enigma. Although "The Proverbs" series, also called "The Disparates," is among Goya's lesser-known works, the etchings are roughly contemporary with his "black paintings," of which "Saturn Devouring His Children" is a famous part.

The series makes frequent use of bizarre, distorted imagery and unusual composition. There are many hidden images, and in a macabre way, it's fun looking for

these hidden animals, faces and objects where you wouldn't expect them.

In the etching "Matrimonial Folly," a grotesquely distorted man and woman joined at the back point to a cloth-draped being whose hands are clasped desperately in prayer, while a crowd of deformed dwarfs looks on.

In an untitled plate, the central figure holds the hand of someone with a face for an elbow and looks through the picture plane, in horror, at something apparently behind the viewer's back.

The mystery in the 18 etchings is compelling, although any attempt at interpretation is dangerous. The enigmatic nature of the series is at least partially a result of Goya's desire to elude interpretation of works he feared would offend the Spanish king. In Philip Hofer's introduction

to the Dover edition of "The Disparates," a book containing prints from the etchings, Hofer wrote, "The full title of each print was, as usual, disguised in order that its personal, political, religious or satirical inspiration could not be identified."

After all, the etchings were created during the Spanish Inquisition.

That even the titles of these works can shed no light on their meaning has made interpretation of "The Proverbs" difficult.

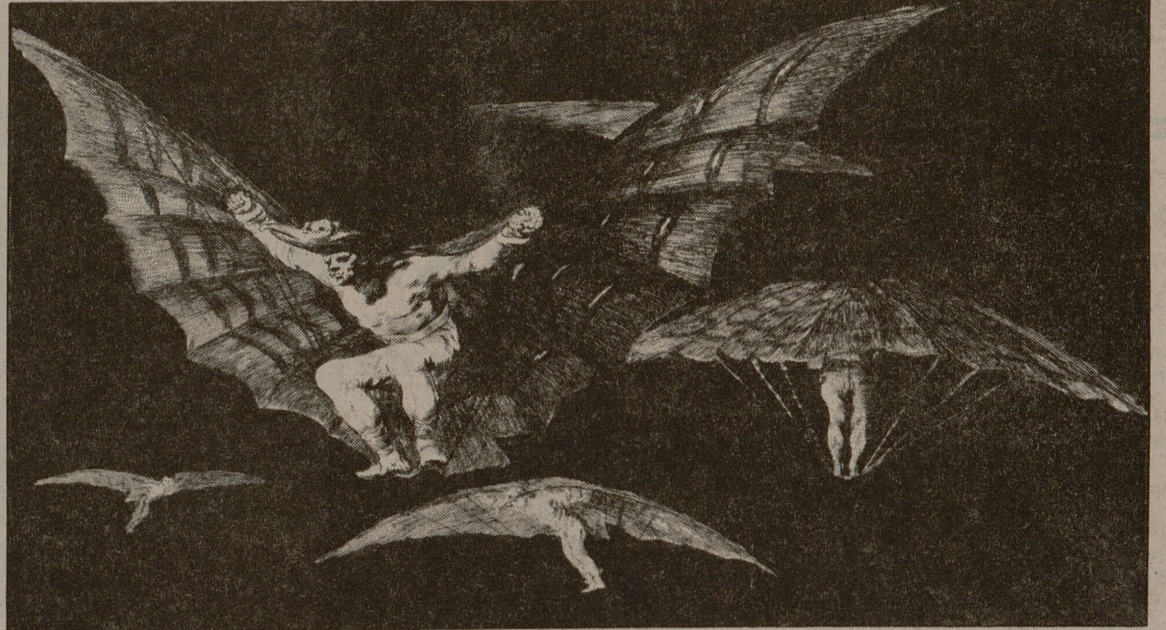
Joe Arredondo, curator of the Forsyth Center Galleries, said scholars have tried to decipher the series for more than a hundred years.

"The Proverbs" were first published in 1864, 50 years after Goya's death.

The Forsyth Center Galleries, at the old site of the Former Students' Association in the MSC, is a beautiful place to see small exhibitions of this kind. However, the piped-in music, sporting geriatric versions of songs like "Here Comes the Sun," simply goes against the Goya.

Other exhibitions in the galleries include:

- Casey Williams; a collection



Francisco Goya's etching "Modo De Volar" ("Way of Flying")

of hand-tinted, large-scale photographs.

- David Everett; a collection of polychromed mahogany sculpture.
- Art from the Texas A&M

Medical School's collection.

All will run through August 20 and are free to the public. A reception for the artists of the medical school collection, many of whom are faculty members or family of faculty, will be held August 1.

The Forsyth Center Galleries are open daily. Hours for the center are noon to 8 p.m. on Monday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

IN ADVANCE

Second Dinner Theater show opens today

The MSC Dinner Theater, in association with the Aggie Players, will present its second program of the summer with "Count Dracula." The comical version of the Transylvanian legend will open tonight at 8 in Rudder Forum.

Friday and Saturday nights at 8 and next weekend (August 3-5).

The dinner portion of the presentation will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Faculty Club in Rudder Tower.

Tickets are available in the MSC Box Office. For more information, call 845-1234.

Exhibit by Navasota artist to open in MSC

An exhibit of watercolor paintings by Navasota artist Terry Holliday will open in the MSC Gallery on Tuesday, August 1.

Titled "An Experience in Watercolor," the exhibit features around 20 paintings by the award-winning artist.

Holliday will lecture in 201

MSC at 7 p.m. on the day the exhibit opens. A reception in the gallery will follow the lecture.

The lecture, reception and exhibit are all free of charge and open to the public.

MSC Visual Arts is presenting the exhibit, which will be open the entire month of August.

WHAT'S UP

Thursday

TAMU SAILING TEAM: will meet at 8 p.m. in 104 Zachry.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will meet at 6 p.m. For more information contact the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 704 AB Rudder to watch a video presentation on the concept of God in Islam. For more information contact Moosa at 846-3350 or Brad at 846-1404.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. For more information contact the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. For more information contact the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Friday

STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE: will have a brown-bag lunch for students with children, at noon, in Room 204 of the O&M Building. For more information contact Nancy Thompson at 845-1741.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. For more information contact the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

'Nice guys' of Tesla perform fiery Austin show

By Keith Spera

ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Last Saturday night, the Austin City Coliseum was the sight of one of the more bizarre concert scenarios in this reviewer's memory.

Three hard rock bands — Kix, Tesla and Great White — were on the bill, but things just didn't seem right for a rock concert.

For starters, the Coliseum looks more like a high school gymnasium (and a dumpy one at that) than a concert arena; there were no ramps to wander up to enter the building and only one door. The only seats were a few rows of bleachers lining the walls. A bunch of that fuzzy-looking, flame-retardant stuff covered the ceiling.

Also, everyone associated with the show was just too darn nice for a hard-rock concert, where egos are generally bigger than the facility hosting the show and everyone making a dollar on the concert, from ushers to road managers, seems to forget that it's the audience members who ultimately pay their salaries.

When Tesla's managers learned that we were supposed to have photo and press passes for the show but had somehow been left off the list, they promptly gave us V.I.P. passes and asked if we'd like to meet the band after the show.

Backstage, Kix's road manager, Bob Daniels, despite having been on the road for 11 months and probably having met about a billion people, actually remembered us from back in February, when we met him

backstage at a Ratt/Britny Fox/Kix show in Houston.

Tesla's drummer, Troy Luccketta, chatted with us backstage, then graciously invited *The Battalion* contingent back to his band's tour bus for a screening of Tesla's new video, "Love Song," which hasn't even been released to any video channels (it was filmed in front of 16,000 fans in the band's hometown of Sacramento).

On the bus, Tesla bassist Brian Wheat related with sincerity how much it hurts to be misquoted and taken advantage of by members of the press.

All the band members and roadies were basically cheery, well-mannered and sober.

Tesla and Great White had even put egos aside and were "co-headlining" on this tour, with the two bands alternating the order they performed in nightly.

Of course, there was some indication that this was a hard-rock concert. The usual herd of aging, more-make-up-than-clothes rock queens were on hand, as well as the kids sporting the black T-shirts of the latest rock band to come through town (in the context of the gym-like coliseum, these people made it seem as if the local high school was holding a costume dance and everybody showed up as a rock groupie).

And the music was loud. But this was not your run-of-the-mill show of generic screamers.

See Tesla/Page 6



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Tesla's Jeff Keith and Frank Hannon perform Sat. night.

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