

THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE

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The journal of record for new discoveries and attributions in art

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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A new technique unveils a hidden Goya in the Rijksmuseum



Portrait of Don Ramón Satué, by Francisco de Goya. 1823. Canvas, 107 by 83.5 cm. (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam).



Diagram of the image underlying that of Satué, compiled by Anna Krekeler: composite of the scans mapping the various distributions of trace elements as determined by XRF spectrometry superimposed onto the radiograph and the colours flowed in as appropriate.

An intrusive portrait by Goya

by DUNCAN BULL and ANNA KREKELER, with MATTHIAS ALFELD, JORIS DIK and KOEN JANSSENS

This article, which appears in the October issue of *The Burlington Magazine*, publishes for the first time a hitherto unknown composition beneath one of Goya's most celebrated masterpieces, the *Portrait of Don Ramón Satué* in the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.

This revelation was made possible by using the new technique of 'Scanning Macro X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry', developed by the University of Antwerp and the Technical University of Delft. (This innovation can detect the likely colours used in an underlying composition without touching

the surface of a painting.) The scans show that beneath the relaxed portrait of the Spanish judge, Don Ramón Satué, Goya had painted a much more formal portrait of a man wearing military uniform, red sash and other decorations.

The article explores the date of the hidden portrait and the identity of the sitter, whose sash and stars are those of the highest rank of the Royal Order of Spain. (This was the chivalric order instituted by Joseph Bonaparte when his brother Napoleon created him King of Spain.) The authors place this important discovery within the context of Goya's *œuvre*.

Read the full account in the October issue

The October issue is devoted to acquisitions and discoveries of works of art

NOTE TO EDITORS: IN ANY COVERAGE OF THESE ARTICLES, PLEASE ENSURE THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE IS ACKNOWLEDGED

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