

# Caylus



**EUGENIO LUCAS VELÁZQUEZ**  
(Alcalá de Henares, 1817-Madrid, 1870)

*Battle Scene*

1852

Oil on canvas

56 x 41 cm

Signed and dated: "E. Lucas 1852"

## RELATED LITERATURE:

ARNÁIZ, J. M. *Eugenio Lucas, su vida y su obra*. Madrid: M. Montal, 1981.

Lucas Velázquez is undoubtedly the Spanish Romantic artist who best understood the art of Goya, becoming the most important and committed follower of that artist's universe following his death. So profound was Lucas's assimilation of the essence of Goya that on occasions this has complicated the attribution of some less studied works.

Referred to since the 19<sup>th</sup> century as Eugenio Lucas Padilla or Eugenio Lucas the Elder and as having been born in Alcalá de Henares, the artist was in fact born in Madrid on 9 February 1817. He began his artistic training as a student at the Academia de San Fernando but felt at odds with the cold classicism of academic teaching and preferred to study the work of the leading figures of Spanish painting at first hand, making numerous copies in the Prado of Velázquez and in particular of Goya, whose work had a major influence on his style and creative personality.

In Goya's composition Lucas encountered a remarkably rich vein for developing a type of imaginative, passionate painting of fantastical visions and intensely dramatic scenes that fully reflect the Romantic spirit, primarily expressed in scenes of the Inquisition, witches' sabbaths, country pilgrimages, working-class women from Madrid and bullfighting, all themes assimilated from Goya and which constitute the most interesting aspect of the artist's very fertile career.

In 1850 Lucas painted the no longer extant ceiling of the Teatro Real in Madrid. He was later made honorary court painter by Isabel II and a Knight of the Order of Charles III. Married in 1844, he separated from his wife in 1853 and from the following year lived with Francisca Villaamil with whom he had four children, one of whom, Eugenio Lucas Villaamil, followed his father's profession and style, albeit with less ability and with a notably eclectic artistic personality. Their works are on occasions confused. Lucas died in Madrid on 11 September 1870.