



A Stone Cartouche with the Virgin and Child, Encircled by a Garland of Flowers

Date

1651

Primary Maker

Jan Philips van Thielen

Medium

Oil on copper

Description

This garland painting is "one of the most ambitious and exquisite of these works and surely one of the few significant expressions of the Van Thielen-Quellinus collaboration still outside the public sphere....At the center of the painting Quellinus depicts grisaille sculptures of the Virgin and Christ Child subduing the serpent. The serpent

clutches the apple of Original Sin. It is a disarmingly tender image of the Virgin and Child victorious over sin and the devil. Quellinus sets the holy figures in an intricate stone cartouche crowned at the upper corners with a pair of swans.; Van Thielen weaves the cartouches with ivy (an age-old symbol of death, remembrance and eternal life) and a splendid profusion of blooms -- roses, jasmine, daffodils, snow drops, hydrangea, nasturtium, apple blossoms, anemones -- each of which alludes to the virtues or exemplary lives of the Virgin and Child. The bouquet is enlivened with moths and butterflies symbolizing the resurrection of Christ and his triumph over the grave."

Dimensions

49 x 37 1/2 in. (124.5 x 95.3 cm) Overall, Frame: 58 1/2 x 47 x 4 in. (148.6 x 119.4 x 10.2 cm)