The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Virgin and Child, with Saints Lawrence and Julian

Gentile da Fabriano (Italian, ca. 1370-1427)

Date 1423-25

Medium Tempera on panel

Dimensions 35 $3/4 \times 18 1/2$ in. (90.8 × 47 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1966

Accession Number 1966.1.167

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 30, Gold-Grounds Room

Commentary This small but richly painted altarpiece was designed perhaps for some private family chapel. It must be close in date to Gentile's best-known work, the Adoration of the Magi of 1423, now in the Uffizi. Like the Adoration, this panel, with its lyrical linear patterns and elegantly ornamented surface, perpetuates late Gothic traditions, most obviously in the gentle, graceful figures of the Madonna and Child. The adoring saints, however, seem more advanced than work of the same date by Gentile's Florentine contemporaries; the portrait-like heads and solidly modeled bodies are strikingly natural and eloquent. Saint Lawrence, the third-century Roman deacon, kneels at left beside the grate on which he was burned alive. At right is Saint Julian the Hospitaler, who built a refuge for travelers in penance for unwittingly murdering his parents. Source: Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Albert, Duc de Broglie, 1846 [1821–1901; and subsequent heirs]; Frick, 1966. Source: The Frick Collection: Drawings, Prints and Later Aquisitions. Volume IX. New York: The Frick Collection, 2003.