

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Education of the Virgin

Georges de La Tour (French, 1593–1652)

Date ca. 1650

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 33 × 39 1/2 in. (83.8 × 100.3 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1948

Accession Number 1948.1.155

Not On View

Commentary The authorship of this painting has been much debated. Recent studies of the several surviving versions suggest that all may be replicas of a lost original by Georges de La Tour. Yet some scholars maintain that the Frick canvas is the original; it has been attributed to the artist's son Étienne primarily because of the form of its signature. The painter's striking use of light imbues the popular genre motif of St. Anne teaching her daughter to read the Bible with a hushed aura of reverence. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Roland Robert, Nice. Knoedler (purchased a share in the picture from Rudolph Heinemann in May 1947). Frick, 1948. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.