

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



The Flagellation of Christ

Cimabue (Cenni di Pepo) (Italian, ca. 1240–ca. 1302)

Date ca. 1280

Medium Tempera on panel

Dimensions 9 3/4 × 7 7/8 in. (24.8 × 20 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1950

Accession Number 1950.1.159

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 30, Gold-Grounds Room

Commentary The most celebrated Florentine artist of his generation, Cimabue (ca. 1240–1302) won acclaim for his achievements in naturalistic representation and emotional expression in monumental altarpieces, frescoes, and mosaics. In 1950 The Frick Collection acquired an extremely rare small-scale painting attributed to Cimabue, *The Flagellation of Christ*. Scholars immediately recognized the work's beauty and importance but debated whether it was in fact a work by Cimabue or by his Sienese counterpart, Duccio di Buoninsegna (ca. 1255–1319). In 2000 another small painting by Cimabue, *The Virgin and Child Enthroned with Two Angels*, was discovered in a private collection in Britain. Scholars attributed this previously unknown work to Cimabue based on stylistic comparisons to one of his celebrated altarpieces, the *Virgin and Child Enthroned with Angels* (Musée du Louvre, Paris). Studies further revealed that *The Virgin and Child Enthroned*, now in the collection of the National Gallery, London, and the Frick *Flagellation* once formed part of the same larger work, possibly a small altarpiece, or a diptych or triptych used for prayer. At an unknown date, this work was cut apart, and its individual scenes entered the art market as independent panels.

Collection History Acquired at the end of the 19th century by M. Rolla; passed on to G. Rolla before being sold. E. Moratilla, Paris. Knoedler. Frick, 1950. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.