

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Plaque: Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

French, Limoges

Date mid 16th century

Medium Limoges; enamel on copper, parcel-gilt

Dimensions 4 3/4 × 3 1/2 in. (12.1 × 8.9 cm)

Credit Line Gift of Alexis Gregory, 2021

Accession Number 2021.4.11

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 14, Enamels Room

Commentary One of the most important events preceding the Crucifixion, the agony of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane is recounted in the four canonical Gospels. Only Mark (14:32–72) and Matthew (26:36–46), however, mention the location of Gethsemane. On this plaque, the apostles Peter, John, and James rest against rocks as Christ prays in the background. Prefiguring Christ's sacrifice on the cross, an angel in the sky presents a chalice and host in his hands. In the distance, Judas arrives with soldiers. The scene is likely based on a series of fourteen engravings of the Passion of Christ by Lucas van Leyden (ca. 1494–1533), published in 1521.

Collection History Julius Böhler collection, Munich; Blumka Gallery, New York, purchased by Alexis Gregory, 2006; Gift to The Frick Collection, 2021