



The Maid with the Unicorn

Caterina Corner as Chastity

Artist	Dario di Giovanni Pordenone, 1420 - Conegliano, 1495
Origin date	middle of the 15th century
Type	painting
Material	wood
Technique	tempera
Sizes	magasság: 100 cm szélesség: 90 cm
Inventory No.	55.212
Other	New attribution and identification of the woman depicted: In 2019, Joaneath Spicer attributed the painting to Dario di Giovanni, previously known by the conventional name Master of the Stories of Helen, and identified the female figure as Caterina Corner.



Description

„It is now thought to be a work by Dario di Giovanni, who for a long time was known only as the Master of the Judgment of Paris or the Master of the Stories of Helen—the latter after a series of three large panel paintings (Walters Art Museum, Baltimore). [...] In keeping with tradition, the virgin is sitting in the forest, which stands out in the background. [...] The virgin has pulled her hair back with a headband; her dress with brocade sleeves gleams bright red. With a rigid facial expression, she looks with narrow eyes at the unicorn lying beside her and has placed her hands around its neck. [...] The woman portrayed is Caterina Corner (1455/56–1510) of Venice, who is depicted as an allegory of chastity. She married the king of Cyprus in 1468 and reigned as queen of that island realm for several years after his death.” Michael Philipp: “Intimate Companionship: The Unicorn and the Virgin.” In: Béatrice de Chancel-Bardelot et al. (eds.): Unicorn: The Mythical Beast in Art. Munich–London–New York: Prestel, 2025, p. 250.

Provenance

Collection of Arnold Ipolyi,

Exhibitions

- 2015 St. Pölten
- 2025 Potsdam

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<https://journal.thewalters.org/volume/74/essay/the-abduction-of-helen-venetian-spalliere-celebrating-the-wedding-of->



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