



Christ ascending to the Cross

Artist	Master of the Lazzaroni-Madonna active in Florence 1375-1434/35
Origin date	around 1370
Material	wood
Technique	tempera
Inventory No.	55.153



Description

At the centre of the narrow, vertical panel, in the middle of a broad strip of ground, stands a tall T-shaped cross against a background that was originally blue but has now turned black. Jesus, stripped of his garments, ascends the twelve-rung ladder to the cross of his own free will; his head, encircled by a red cruciform halo, is crowned with thorns. From above, an executioner's assistant dressed in red pulls him upward, while another pushes him from below; from the left, a henchman in a yellow tunic strikes him with a whip. On the right, the Roman authority that ordered the execution is represented by the centurion in a red mantle, who holds a mace in his left hand and points to Jesus with his right. A servant in ragged clothing holds the ladder steady from the right. In the foreground, Mary and the Apostle John stand on either side, in accordance with the arrangement of three-figure Crucifixion scenes. The depiction of Christ ascending the ladder to the cross appears in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Italian painting under the influence of apocryphal writings and mystery plays. (Prokopp Mária, 1993)

Provenance

Arnold Ipolyi's purchase from the Ramboux estate in Cologne, 1867

Restoration

1970 Varga Dezső

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