

Compartment of a Predella with Episodes from the Life of the Virgin, Flight into Egypt



**FIRST RESTORATION MEETING REPORT
MARCH 2024**

Description

Artist: **Sano di Pietro**

Date: **1450–1455**

Dimensions: **33,20 x 49,7 cm**

Materials: **Tempera on poplar wood panel**

Inventory Number: **40145**

The Sienese master Sano di Pietro created this painting around the middle of the 15th century, and it depicts the famous scene of the Flight into Egypt. This compartment of a predella dismembered in the distant past with the episodes from the life of the Virgin includes a narration from the Gospel of Matthew (2:13–15): “...night gives way to the dawn of a new day.”

The narrative structure of the composition includes the procession of a servant leading with a donkey while St. Joseph trails with a staff in his hand. Mary and the Child, in swaddling clothes, look back. Leafy trees with fruit mark the way and towers and hills are in the distance.







State of Preservation

The panel shows some visible cracks on the front and back, some of which have already undergone past repairs. The painted surface suffered structural movements that caused severe lifting of the paint film requiring emergency intervention. Oxidation of the paint slightly altered the color values.



Restoration Procedures

Support:

- Removal of the current parquetry; restoration of the horizontal cracking by inserting poplar wedges
- Realization of a containment system capable of accommodating any movements of the support
- Treatment of the entire surface with virgin beeswax; creation of a new wall-mounting system

Painted surface:

- Consolidation and glazing of the painted and gilded surface to allow for intervention on the support
- Removal of the glazing upon completion of the restoration of the support
- Removal of the paint and retouching using suitable solvents applied by swab and/or Japanese paper
- Varnishing of the surface, filling the gaps with Bologna plaster and rabbit glue; pictorial reintegration









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