

Basic Detail Report



Niche supported by two angels

Date

c. 1550s

Primary Maker

Giovanni da Nola

Medium

Marble

Description

The relief is one of a pair of framing elements. The angels, which are based on Roman figures of the allegorical goddess of Victory, hold up a cloth of honor. During the Italian Renaissance, cloths of honor were traditionally

used for two kinds of sacred objects: either miraculous images, or tabernacles of the sacrament or of holy oil. Occasionally, as in the work of the Della Robbia family, sculptures of tabernacles included depictions of the cloth of honor as is also the case in the present work. Given the relatively shallow depth of the sculpture, it is conceivable that it was used for a miraculous image rather than a tabernacle. Conversely, the fact that the present work has a pendant, suggest that it may have come from a pair of tabernacles - one for the sacrament, one for holy oil. The full mannerist treatment of the volutes at the top and the sophistication of the treatment of the classical sources behind the images of the angels suggest that these works are from the mid-to third-quarter of the sixteenth century, c. 1550-1575. The idealized and classical treatment of the faces and highly sophisticated treatment of the drapery resemble the mature works of Giovanni da Nola.

Dimensions

Object: 35 1/4 × 35 5/8 × 5 3/4" (89.5 × 90.5 × 14.6 cm)