

PAINTING

Lamentation of Christ

One of the most outstanding jewels of movable art from Saint Mary's Cathedral deposited in the Museum of Sacred Art in Vitoria is the canvas of the *Lamentation of Christ* attributed to Gaspar de Crayer (1584-1669), one of the great Flemish painters of the 17th century alongside Rubens and Van Dyck. The work was commissioned by the brothers Francisco (1602-1659) and Martín de Galarreta (1606-1673), the Secretaries of State and War in Flanders. They intended to decorate the Chapel of Saint Prudentius and the Chapel of the Holy Christ, of which they were patrons, with this magnificent painting.

It depicts an episode following the Descent from the Cross in which those closest to Christ – the Virgin, Saint John and Magdalene – are mourning before the deceased figure of the Son of God. It is an elegant painting of refined technique in which Crayer's personality is clearly on display in its matter-of-fact tone, far removed from the heroic pathos of his predecessors, Rubens and Van Dyck. It is a dramatic subject that Crayer was able to resolve with exquisite refinement, without having to delve too deeply into the pain and drama of Christ's death.



Author: Attributed to Gaspar de Crayer

Date: c. 1640

Technique: Oil on fabric

Measurements: 276 x 208 cm

Place: Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art (Vitoria-Gasteiz)



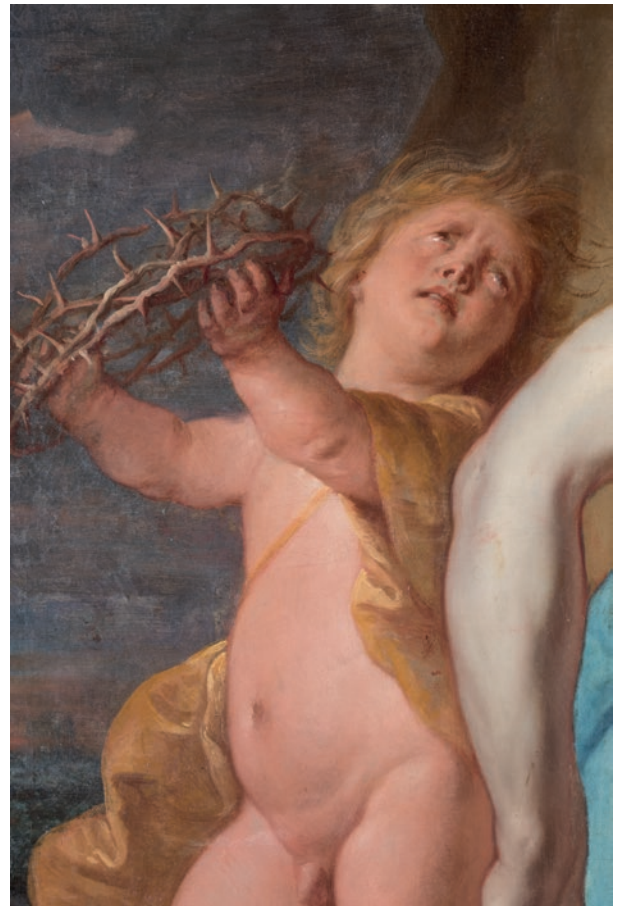
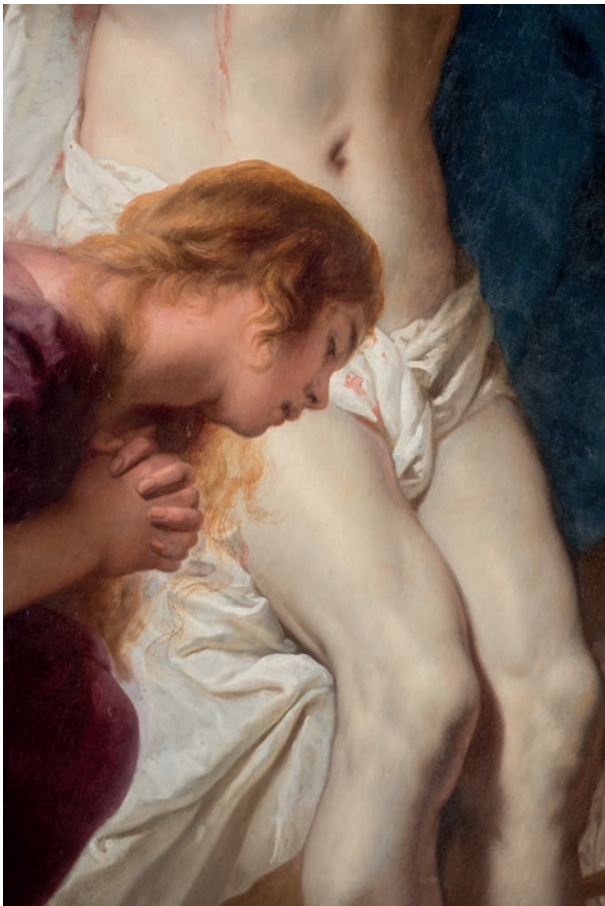
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A Living Treasure

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