

SPOTLIGHT: Bogomater Tichvinskaya (Tichvine Mother of God)



EI Presenter: Carol Blackwell

Title of Piece:

Year created: Late 17th and 18th Centuries

Artist: Unknown

Five points of interest about this artist:

1. Some of the colors used have a special meaning like gold representing heaven, red representing divine life and white the essence of life.
2. The original meaning of an icon is an image and comes from the Greek and was a religious work of art, most commonly a painting from Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Today the word icon has a broader meaning such as an icon on a computer, or something or someone that is well known or represents certain qualities.
3. Religious icons are generally a flat panel painting like the one we are going to look at, but they can be cast in metal, carved in stone, embroidered on cloth, done in mosaic or printed on paper. Many icons in Eastern Christianity have the themes of Jesus, Mary, saints, angels or the cross.
4. There is a story associated with this painting that it once hung in the village church of Tichin. When the village heard the Swedish invaders were on their way to attack the town, the villagers gathered in the church and prayed to this icon and the invaders turned around. So, the power represented in this icon was thought to have rescued the village.
5. It is thought that the background was repainted by an artist influenced by the Italian Renaissance, where cherubs were often shown this way. In Italian, they are called putti.

Possible questions to use when discussing this piece with museum visitors:

1. What colors do you notice especially in this painting?
2. What feeling does this painting give you?
3. What did you notice about the angel cherubs in the background?
4. Does the room as a whole give you any particular feeling?
5. Are there comments you would like to share before going to the next gallery?

Tour Type: Learning to Look; People, Portraits, and Places; Art Moves You