

The Madonna and Child with a Member of the Hillensberger Family

Date

1513

Primary Maker

Adriaen Isenbrandt

Medium

oil on wood

Description

The Madonna and Child with a Member of the Hillensberger Family is an extremely well preserved example of a small devotional altarpiece consisting of two panels hinged together. The identification of the donor as a member of the Hillensberger family of Hanover is established by the coat of arms appearing on the back of the right-hand wing, and on the signet ring worn by the young man on the index finger of his left hand. The inscription at the bottom of the frame records that the young man was thirty-two years old at the time the work was completed on 16 February 1513, but his precise identity has not been discovered. Like many other artists working in Bruges in the first half of the sixteenth century, Isenbrandt was a conservative painter who maintained fifteenth-century Northern Renaissance traditions of microscopic realism, disguised symbolism, and jewel-like color. For this painting he derived the composition and iconography of the Madonna and Child from Jan van Eyck's Virgin of the Canon van der Paele of 1436.

Dimensions

Sight: 12 1/4 x 8 1/4 in. (31.1 x 21 cm) Framed: 26 1/2 x 19 x 3 in. (67.3 x 48.3 x 7.6 cm)