



2022.61

Unidentified artist

Peru, Cuzco

Interiora Virginis. The Virgin Mary with Saints Dominic and Francis.

Second half of the 18th century

Oil on canvas, 33 1/4 x 28 in.

Inscribed around Mary's head: *Per Mariam, cum Maria (HIS), et in Maria.* In a cartouche at bottom: *Interiora B. Virginis. Benedic anima mea Domino et omnia interiora mea nomine sancto eius.*



Cornelius Galle I (1576-1650), *Interiora Virginis* (1640-45).

This painting is one of innumerable versions mostly painted in Cuzco, Peru after an engraving by Cornelius Galle I. The painting in the Thoma is faithful to the inscriptions in the engraving, with the words "Benedic...eius" based on the canticle translated as "Praise the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me praise his holy name." In modern art historical citations the theme of the painting has been variously termed "The Soul of Mary," "Our Lady of the Dove," or "Mary as the

Bride of the Holy Spirit.” The Cuzco artist, or perhaps his patron, stuck to the title of the print: “Interiora virginis.”

Beyond the inscriptions, the artist and/or patron took great liberties with the original composition. At the top of the canvas, God the Father holds the orb of the world he created, witnessed by the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. At the bottom, Saints Dominic of Guzmán and Francis attend the apparition. Most notable is the appearance of the infant Christ Child, completing the vertical Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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