



Unidentified artist

*Our Lady of the Rosary with her Joys and Sorrows*

18<sup>th</sup> century

Peru, probably Cuzco

Oil and gold on canvas, 78 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 55 inches

There are several paintings in the Thoma Collection related to the prayers of the Rosary, which was said to have been bestowed by Mary on Saint Dominic of Guzmán in the twelfth century. In this painting, Saint Dominic appears at the lower left, but the saint depicted at the right bears no direct resemblance to Saint Francis of Assisi, with whom Dominic is often paired in Spanish colonial paintings.

There is a certain naïveté in both the subjects and style of the painting, though it nonetheless probably was created in a workshop in Cuzco, based on the predominant use of gold in the “brocade” of the painted textiles. Our Lady of the Rosary appears with the “moon beneath her feet,” as in depictions of her Immaculate Conception, and the burning Souls in Purgatory pictured beneath her feet are more often associated with images of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The unknown patron may have insisted on these additions to the iconographic program, as well as the seven joys and seven sorrows of the Virgin that impel the readings of the rosary beads. These scenes are painted in roundels surrounding the image of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child, surmounted by a “Coronation of the Virgin” above her golden crown at the top of the canvas.

Suzanne Stratton-Pruitt