Roundel - Saint John the Baptist Preaching

Object: Roundel

Place of origin: Flanders (region) (made)

Date: ca. 1520 (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Stained glass with painted details

Credit Line: Soulages Collection

Museum number: 5641-1859

Gallery location: Sacred Silver & Stained Glass, Room 83, The Whiteley Galleries, case S2

Public access description

Information on the life of St John the Baptist is found primarily in the Four Gospels. They record that he was about 30 when he left the desert and began his public ministry. In the desert he had lived the life of a hermit, feeding only on locusts and wild honey and dressed in a garment made of camel's hair. St John the Baptist is usually depicted wearing an animal skin.

On two occasions while he was preaching, St John saw Jesus Christ approaching and declared 'Behold the Lamb of God'. This roundel probably depicts one of those encounters.

Descriptive line

Stained and painted glass roundel depicting St John the Baptist preaching. Made in Flanders about 1520.

Physical description

St John, wearing a robe over his animal skin garment, stands in the centre within a cluster of three trees. Part of a tree has been fastened horizontally to two of these trees, forming a makeshift pulpit. A crowd has gathered round him, some standing and some sitting. Behind the Baptist on the right of the panel is the nimbed figure of Christ. There is a crenellated townscape in the background. The scene is encased within a border composed of green man heads, foliage and fruit.

The whole executed in brown/black pigment and yellow stain.

Dimensions

Diameter: 34.5 cm sight, Height: 37.4 cm framed, Width: 37.3 cm framed, Depth: 3.2 cm framed, Weight: 3.0 kg framed

Museum number

5641-1859

Object history note

Formerly in the Soulages Collection.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O11231/saint-john-the-baptist-preaching-roundel-unknown/