Panel - A Combat of Warriors

Object: Panel

Place of origin: Florence (made)

Date: 1470-1500 (made)

Artist/Maker: Pollaiuolo, Antonio del (sculptor)

Materials and Techniques: Terracotta in relief

Museum number: 7598:1.2-1861

Gallery location: Medieval & Renaissance, Room 64, The Wolfson Gallery, case 21

Public access description

This panel relief is attributed to Antonio de Pollaiuolo, made in Florence in 1470-1500.

The Florentine painter Antonio Pollaiuolo’s interest in the male nude in active poses was shared by many Renaissance artists. Prints of his engravings were widely distributed across Italy and Northern Europe, and the figures appeared in other works of art. The terracotta relief recalls elements of Pollaiuolo’s engraving. It might reflect a bronze relief which Pollaiuolo was said to have made for export to Spain.

Descriptive line

Panel relief, terracotta, 'Combat of Naked Men', ascribed to Pollaiuolo, Italy, Florence, late 15th century

Physical description

The twelve figures are disposed in pairs across two planes. In the foreground are (left) a male nude in right profile with dagger raised about to strike a seated nude holding a shield on the ground, (right centre) two standing nude figures with legs apart and right arms raised with shields on their left arms, apparently joined by a chain, (right) a bearded male nude about to strike a second nude lying on the ground. The background shows (left) a naked youth in left profile with right arm raised about to strike seated youth, (right) two fighting youths with daggers in their right hands and a chain in their left.

Dimensions

Height: 42.2 cm, Width: 55 cm, Depth: 5 cm, Weight: 7.42 kg

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Object history note

Purchased from the Gigli-Campana Collection, £80.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O167759/a-combat-of-warriors-panel-pollaiolo-antonio-del/