Saint Michael the Archangel BF.1980.10

Artist/Culture: Claudio Coello, Spanish
Date/Period: 1665-1670
Place: Spain
Medium: Oil on Canvas
Dimensions: Canvas: 180.3 x 114.3 cm; Frame (Outer): 203.2 x 139.7 x 11.4 cm

“There was war in Heaven.” This biblical book of Revelation tells how Michael and his Angels cast the Devil out of heaven. The devil is described as a dragon but is usually depicted in a dark, angelic form. Saint Michael the Archangel was frequently portrayed in Spanish painting of the 17th century. He represented the Church’s victory over heresy, and the righteous role of Spanish Catholicism in its confrontation with the Protestant Reformation.

Online Resources:
Hirsch Library Online Catalog
MET Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or HPL System)

Print Resources:

Art and Empire: The Spanish Golden Age
Painting in Spain: 1500-1700
The Baroque Age
Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in The Spanish World
The Spanish Golden Age: Painting and Sculpture in the time of Velasquez
Bibliography

Object Specific Information
Clifton, James, Melina Kervandjian, Barbara Baert, Andrea Bayer, Anne Dunlop, Steven F. Ostrow, Lisa Pon, et al. *A Golden Age of European Art: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation*. Houston, TX: The Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation, 2016. ND 454 .S258 2016 Ready Ref

Claudio Coello


Baroque Art


Spanish Paintings


Spanish Golden Age


The Catholic Reformation (Counter Reformation)


This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library’s holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as “Baroque” and “Saints” in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

*Counter-Reformation in Art*

*Christian saints in art*

*Painting, Baroque Spain*

*Painting, Spanish 17th Century*

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet’s *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7323 or Hirsch@mfah.org