

Madonna and Child with St John

<sup>Fonto</sup>  
L oil on panel, 33 ins. in diameter.

Provenance

Prince Tassolo Festetics, Austria-Hungary. Acquired by Dr Clowes in 19 .

Versions

Five very close variants exist<sup>(1)</sup>:

1. Florence, Palazzo Vecchio, Camera Verde
2. Musée Fabre, Montpellier (inv.no.676 ; 1926 cat., no.67). Diam. 75 cm. From Campana colln.
3. Formerly in del Nero colln., Rome
4. Museu de Arte, São Paulo. (1963 cat., no.9) Diam. 74 cm.
5. Clark Institute, Williamstown, Mass. (Italian Paintings and Drawings, 1961, no.400, ill., as studio of Botticelli). Diam. 34 ins.

Exhibited

Ind., 1959, no.23.

Certified by R.van Marle<sup>(2)</sup> to be the work of Piero di Còsimo (1462-1521)<sup>(3)</sup>. While the painting shows affinity with the works of that artist, the other known versions clearly indicate that it is a product of the school of Botticelli (ca. 1445 - 1510)<sup>(3)</sup>.

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1. Information from E. Fahy (~~given orally~~, (1966)).
2. Undated doc., Clowes archives.
3. Allen W. Clowes discussed the painting in his unpub. B.A. thesis for the Dépt. of Fine Arts, Harvard Univ. (1939). He dated it there around 1490, and compared the composition of a school of Botticelli painting in the Nardus colln., Suresnes. E. Forbes (note to Dr Clowes) similarly assigned the painting to the school of Botticelli, and so did W. Suida in an unpub. doc. (Clowes archives).