

PERUGINO

Umbrian school, living 1469 --died 1523

His real name was Pietro di Cristoforo di Vannucci; he was known as Perugino after the principal place of his activity, Perugia. He was born, on good evidence, at Castel (now Città) del Pieve, near Chiusi. Vasari gives his birth-date as around 1445-46, and says that he was trained by some low-class Perugian painter, while Giovanni Santi claims that he was the same age as Leonardo (born 1452). He probably remained in Castel del Pieve till 1470. In any case his style appears to have been formed primarily in Florence, where he appears listed as a member of the Compagnia di San Luca in 1472. Tradition has it that he trained in Florence under Verrochio --either as his pupil or as an assistant --and this appears acceptable. His first certain work that survives is a fragmentary fresco, dated 1478, at Cirqueto, near Perugia. In 1481-82 he was one of the artists who did frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. He divided his time thereafter between Florence, Rome and Perugia and its environs, doing many frescoes and easel-paintings. He ran an important studio, where he had Raphael as one of his pupils.

Christ on the Mount of Olives

oil on panel, 19 x 17 ins.

Condition

The work appears considerably restored.

Provenance

← Kilenyi, Hungary. Acquired by Dr Clowes in 19 .

Exhibited

Ind., 1959, no.43.

Versions

1. Galleria d'Arte Antica e Moderna, Florence, (W. Bombe, Perugino, Berlin-Stuttgart, 1914, pl.25, as around 1493). 166 x 172 cm. Painted for cloister of S. Giusto alle Mura.

2. Cenacolo di Foligno, San Onofrio, Florence : version in background of Last Supper fresco. Dateable around 1500 (Bombe, pl.96).

Certified as a work of Perugino by G. Glück and W. Suida (1935)⁽¹⁾. Handling and color suggest rather a late, sixteenth century follower of Perugino's. One of these, Giovanni Nicola, did a painting of the subject for ^{S. Maria} S. Francesco in Perugia⁽²⁾.

Notes.

1. Letters of Sept. 21 and Nov. 9, 1935 (Clowes archives).
2. See Vasari, Vite, ed. G. Milanesi, 9 vols., Florence, 1878-85, III, pp. 596f.