

A detailed section of the Ghent Altarpiece, specifically the lower register. It depicts a central fountain with a tall, ornate metal spout topped by an angel. Water flows from the spout into an octagonal stone basin. The basin is inscribed with the Latin text "VITE PROEEDENS DE SEDE DEI". Two angels in white robes with large, colorful wings stand on either side of the fountain, holding golden vessels. In the background, a red panel with intricate floral patterns and Latin text is visible. In the foreground, a man in a blue turban and pink robe reads a book on the left, while a bearded man in a pink robe kneels on the right. The scene is set in a lush green field with small flowers and scattered petals.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF THE FLEMISH PRIMITIVES

THE GHENT ALTARPIECE
Research and Conservation
of the Interior: the Lower Register

THE GHENT ALTARPIECE

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF THE INTERIOR:

THE LOWER REGISTER



Contributions to the Study of the Flemish Primitives

16

The KIK-IRPA produces three series of scientific publications on 15th- and early 16th-century paintings: the Corpus, the Repertory and the Contributions.

D/2021/0613/1

ISBN 978-2-930054-41-4

Advisory Board: Till-Holger Borchert, Lorne Campbell, Dominique Deneffe, Bart Fransen, Melanie Gifford, Maximiliaan Martens, Ron Spronk

Translations: Ted Alkins (from French)

Editing: Paul van Calster, with the collaboration of Elisabeth Van Eyck and Catherine Bourguignon

Image processing: Bernard Petit

Layout: Véronique Lux

Cover illustration: Jan van Eyck, *Adoration of the Lamb*, detail of the *Ghent Altarpiece* (Ghent, St Bavo's Cathedral)

Published by the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA), Brussels **with the support of** the Périer-D'Ieteren Foundation.

Research and Conservation supported by the Flemish Government; Saint Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent; Ghent University; University of Antwerp; MSK (Museum of Fine Arts), Ghent; Baillet Latour Fund; Gieskes-Strijbis Fund; Getty Foundation; Belgian Science Policy (BELSPO); Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO); University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.



FONDATION PÉRIER-D'IETEREN



Flanders
State of the Art



University
of Antwerp



GIESKES-STRIJBIS
FONDS



fwo



UNIVERSITY OF
CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY
PRAGUE

THE GHENT ALTARPIECE

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF THE INTERIOR:

THE LOWER REGISTER

Main Authors

Griet Steyaert, Marie Postec, Jana Sanyova, H  l  ne Dubois

with observations, research and documents by

Painting Conservators-Restorers

Kathleen Froyen, Nathalie Laqu  re, Laure Mortiaux, Fran  oise Rosier,
Bart Devolder, C  cile de Boulard

Chemical Research Scientists

Geert Van der Snickt, Francisco Mederos-Henry, C  cile Glaude, Frederik Vanmeert,
Steven De Meyer, Stijn Legrand, Alexia Coudray,   st  p  nka Ku  ckov  , Koen Janssens

Specialists in Scientific Imagery and Photography

Christina Currie, Sophie De Potter, Katrien Van Acker, Catherine Fondaire,
St  phane Bazzo, Herv   Pigeolet

Making extensive use of the Closer to Van Eyck Website

ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

BRUSSELS

2021

Contents

FOREWORD Hilde De Clercq	VII
NOTE TO THE READER	XI
INTRODUCTION	1
1. THE CONSERVATION-RESTORATION OF THE INTERIOR LOWER REGISTER OF THE <i>GHENT ALTARPIECE</i> Hélène Dubois, Kathleen Froyen, Griet Steyaert, Marie Postec, Laure Mortiaux, Nathalie Laquière, Françoise Rosier, Bart Devolder, Cécile de Boulard	9
2. THE VAN EYCKS' CREATIVE PROCESS AND THE DIFFERENT STAGES IN THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERIOR LOWER REGISTER OF THE <i>GHENT ALTARPIECE</i> Marie Postec, Griet Steyaert With contributions by our colleagues, the researchers and specialists mentioned on the title page	33
3. THE CHALLENGES OF A COMPLEX STRATIGRAPHY FROM A CHEMICAL POINT OF VIEW Jana Sanyova, Geert Van der Snickt, Francisco Mederos-Henry With contributions by Cécile Glaude, Frederik Vanmeert, Steven De Meyer, Stijn Legrand, Koen Janssens	111
4. ONE PAINTER OR SEVERAL? A STYLISTIC STUDY Griet Steyaert, Marie Postec	149
CONCLUSION	173
PHOTOGRAPHY BEFORE AND AFTER TREATMENT	177
BIBLIOGRAPHY	193
PROJECT PARTICIPANTS	201
PHOTOGRAPHIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	204
ABBREVIATIONS	205