

COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Lake Titicaca workshop

Saint Thomas Aquinas

c. 1730

oil and gold on copper

30 x 22 cm.; 11 3/4 x 8 5/8 in.

Provenance

Private Collection.

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The central scene is framed by geometrical decorations accompanied by acanthus leaves and a couple of winged *putti* bearing long overlapping flower stems. Towards the bottom, a cartouche indicates the identity of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

The model used for *Saint Thomas* is a close copy of other works of this kind, pointing to a certain dearth in reference sources or an interest in serial production. The sole variations involve the iconography of the saint, who is pictured wearing the Dominican habit with biretta: a golden sun is hanging from a chain around his neck, symbolizing his wisdom; the apparition he is looking at is made up of the Holy Eucharist in a monstrance and, finally, one of his less frequent attributes, wings referring to the moment at which angels girded him with the cord of chastity. But in terms of the appearance of the furnishings and the posture of Saint Thomas' body and his expression, the work follows a pre-established model.

This copper is the pendant piece to the *Saint Augustine of Hippo* (fig. 1), also featured in this exhibition.

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Figure 1. Lake Titicaca Workshop, *Saint Augustine of Hippo*, c. 1730, oil and gold on copper