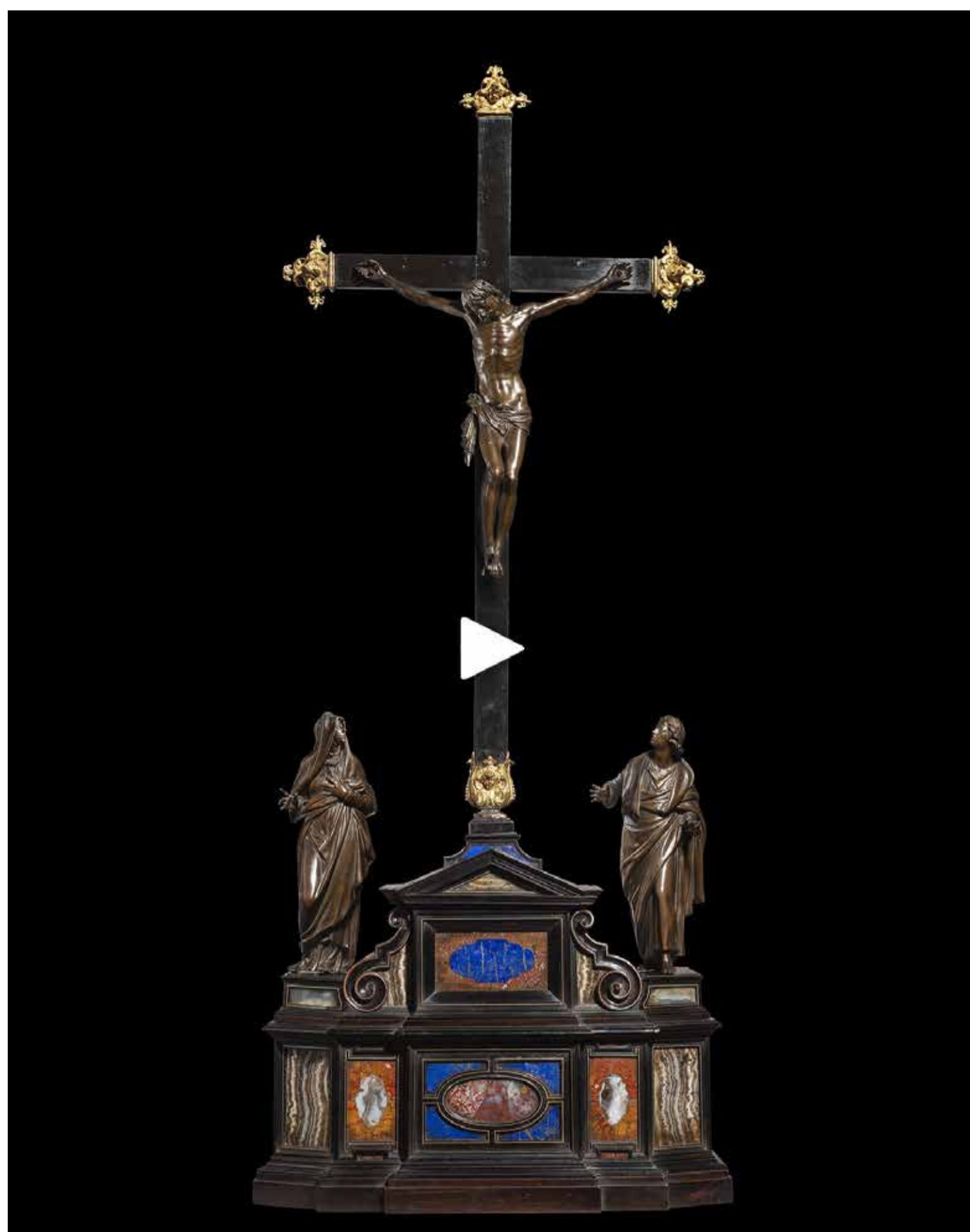


LOOKING CLOSELY



Pietro Tacca and workshop (Carrara 1577–1640 Florence), *The Crucifixion with the Virgin Mary and Saint John the Evangelist*, second quarter of the 1600s, bronze, on an ebonised wood base, mounted with plaques of *pietre dure*; ormolu finials, 123 x 51 x 21 cm / 48.4 x 20 x 8.2 in

DIPLOMACY, MEDICI STYLE

In the world of the Medici rulers of Florence, the ritual of diplomatic gift-giving was vital to establishing and maintaining power. The perfect gift could turn foe into friend, strengthen alliances with foreign rulers, ensure the success of delicate political negotiations, and vouchsafe the continuing loyalty of one's friends. But what to give the person who already has everything? Medici patronage gave glorious rise to the creation of elegant portraits, powerful bronze sculptures, and luxurious objects in *pietre dure*. Ingeniously deployed to promote the Medici's political and cultural aspirations both within Florence and across Europe, these treasured collectibles and diplomatic gifts express and reflect the magnificence and taste of Renaissance Italy's most influential dynasty.

WATCH

Our new video on Pietro Tacca's Crucifixion, a masterpiece in bronze and pietre dure.

READ

An article by Carolyn H. Miner considering dialogues between painting and sculpture in Medici portraiture.

VISIT

The recent exhibition on bronze sculpture at the Palazzo Pitti – the Robilant+Voena Crucifixion is mentioned in the catalogue.

LEARN

*About masterworks by Fontana from this pivotal period currently available at **Robilant+Voena**.*