

Basic Detail Report



Pieta

Date

19th century

Primary Maker

Quill Pen Santero

Medium

wood, gesso, paint

Description

Rectangular board with top cut in wedge shaped center and outer finials. Virgin in black with white negative area across her breast--presumably meant for a shroud--holds

doll-sized dead body of Christ with wounds and blood trickles, wearing loincloth. A diagonal white parallelogram at bottom centre may refer to tomb or stone slab lid. At Virgin's left is a black cross with white shroud draped over it like ribbon. At Virgin's r. are the crown of thorns, 3 nails, and, also diagonally, a small ladder, all done in black on the bistre background. A mesh of black wavy lines runs behind figures, possibly an exceptionally aberrant attempt to suggest the very commonly painted tiled floor. In upper finials and arch the same wavy mesh may indicate figured drapery swags. Virgin's halo is large, filled with concentric wavy lines and framed by V-shaped rays and alternating wavy lines.

Dimensions

Overall: 18 7/8 x 14 3/16 in. (48 x 36 cm)