

TERTIUS
GALLERY



L. Houthakker Collection

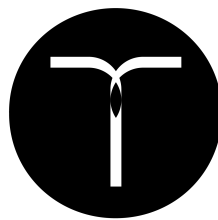
late 17th Century

French school

Over-door panel design drawing

Pen and brown ink and grey wash white heightening on blue paper

21.3 x 19.1 cm



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The placing of painted panels or medallions on top of wall recesses or (as shown in two of the panels in the drawing illustrated) on panels of a different form was an Italian innovation that was enormously successful in France and in Northern European countries from the seventeenth century onwards. The style of drawing indicates a French artist, the composition and detail, like the mask on top of the border on the far right, suggest an Italian model. The drawing illustrated here can be compared with a design for a ceiling decoration in the Pacetti Collection in Berlin,¹ dated about 1620, Roman School. This drawing was associated with Giovanni Lanfranco's ceiling decoration for the Quirinal Palace in Rome (1616-17). The present drawing might therefore have been made by an artist visiting Rome in the second quarter of the seventeenth century.

The left alternative, numbered 1, has a bust placed in the centre of the panel and among the fruits and flowers of the cornucopia and garlands is a sun-flower, often associated with Louis XIV. The alternative on the right, numbered 2, has a vase placed on what looks like a fleur-de-lis, with a putto holding a laurel wreath above the cornucopia. The combination of the motifs points to an artist like Jean Lepautre (1628-82), but the hand is not

Exhibited: Nijmeegs Museum 'Commanderie van Sint Jan', Wanden en Plafonds. Tekeningen uit de verzameling Lodewijk Houthakker, exh. Cat. By R. D. Kollewijn, 1985 (also shown in Haarlem, Vleeshal Grote Markt. Annex of The Frans Hals Museum, 1985), no. 51.

Literature: P. Fuhring, Design into Art. Drawings for Architecture and Ornament. The Lodewijk Houthakker Collection, London 1989, no. 210, p. 210

Provenance: P. Bernard

Inscription: Au dessus de la porte and 1 and 2