

All. B02205

ANGELO DI COSIMO DI MARIANO called BRONZINO

1503 - 1572

Madonna and Child with St. Anne and the Infant St. John the Baptist

Panel 49 by 38 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins (124.5 by 98.4 cms)

Collections: Sir Thomas Neave (1822) and by descent.

Exhibited: British Institution, Old Masters, 1822, No.177.  
British Institution, 1852, No.19.

This picture, which was probably brought to England at the end of the 18th century, was attributed throughout the 19th century to Perino del Vaga. Recent cleaning has however shown that it is a late masterpiece by Bronzino comparable with works like the Holy Family in the Louvre and another in the Ackland Art Museum at Chapel Hill. This latter picture includes the children in similar postures while the haughty features of the Madonna in our picture are also vividly characteristic of Bronzino's work. It has been suggested that the features of St. Anne on the right are those of Laura Battiferri as we know them from the celebrated picture in Florence. However tentative such an identification must be the picture remains a monumental example of Bronzino's religious imagery at a moment when the crisp precision of the mid-century gives way to a slightly more human style at the end of Bronzino's life.

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