



Folding diptych - about 1360-70 (21.8)

French or Flemish c1360 – 1370 - Elephant Ivory

Four scenes from the life of Mary are shown. Top Left – Mary at the Crucifixion of her son. Supported by 2 figures, with 3 others on the left of JC.

Bottom Left – Mary & baby in the stable with shepherds/angels and Joseph.

There is a dog? in the centre right & an ox under the bed. Top Right – Mary with God being made Queen of Heaven + Two angels. Bottom Right – Adoration of the Magi. One king is kneeling and two standing, one of whom is pointing upwards, probably to a star, which can not be seen.

Ivory Diptychs were 'manufactured' in workshops, many with set designs.

Mass produced. Tourist gifts.

Made to order - your own saint, scene etc could be used.

There is an almost exact copy of this diptych in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. It is credited as being French, from Lorraine, c. 1380-1400. The only difference is in one scene, the crowning of Mary is replaced by the Last Judgement.

Queen of Heaven is one of many titles of the Virgin Mary. The title derived, in part, from the ancient Catholic teaching that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was bodily and spiritually assumed into heaven, and that she is there honoured as Queen.

This is the only complete diptych - 2 leaf - ivory in the collection?

There is at least another 1 leaf (21.9) that was part of a diptych.

Middle Ages.

At this time people were being encouraged to meditate on their religion.

To have intimate moments of private contemplation.

Ivory panels were easy to carry.

Franciscan monk (?) rewrote a book about the life of Christ – imagine yourself there – deep meditation – life of Mary became a strong image.