





# GABRIELLE LAROCHE GALLERY

Medieval - Renaissance - 17th century

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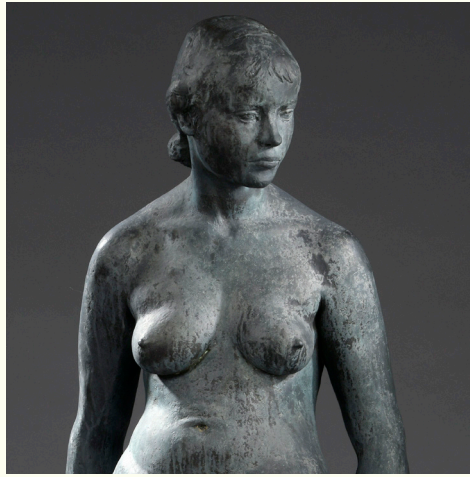
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# **IMPORTANT 14th CENTURY POLYCHROME LIMESTONE VIRGIN AND CHILD**

RHENO-MOSAN WORKSHOPS  
14th CENTURY

Height : 106 cm  
Length : 37 cm

Limestone  
Good remnants of original polychromy

**Provenance : old collection Pierre & Claude Vérité**

The Virgin is depicted in a arched posture because of the weight of the child she's carrying high on her left side.

She wears a green dress with the collar highlighted by a gilt and stone incrustated braid. The red cloak laying on her right shoulder covers the front of her body as an apron. Her high waist is marked by a belt. The surface of the supple drapery is animated by deep and faint pleats.



The Virgin is covered by a short veil maintained by a crown. Framed by strands of blond hair Mary's sweet and juvenile face presents a straight nose, blue almond-shaped eyes, well-drawn mouth slightly smiling and a round chin with a cleft.

In her right hand she holds a flower of which only the stem remains. On her left fore-arm she carries her son whose long tunic falls delicately on his mother's hip. His small bare feet overlaps from the tunic, typical of the 14th century. His juvenile face echoes his mother's. In his left hand the child holds a grape while with the other hand he's playing with the string of Mary's cloak.











According to Louis Réau, the grape stands for the Church and the crucified saviour whose blood turns into eucharistic wine.

This very rare example of the Virgin and Child with grape presents an elegant and delicate figure and noble attitude in the realistic manner of Rheno-Mosan workshops. The artists working there used models from Ile-de-France while softening them. The arch posture is less accentuated, the drapery more sober and the movement quieter.

### **Bibliography**

MARGUERITE DEVIGNE, *La sculpture Mosane du XIIe au XVIe siècle*.

LOUIS RÉAU, *Iconographie de l'Art Chrétien*, Presses Universitaires de France, 1958.







# FINE FRENCH RENAISSANCE WALNUT CREDENZA

FRANCE, VAL-DE-LOIRE WORKSHOPS  
16th CENTURY

Height : 149 cm  
Length : 127.5 cm  
Depth : 50 cm

Walnut wood and *pastiglia*  
Fine condition

This very fine model of walnut credenza opens with two door-leaves and two drawers.

It stands on bun feet. The moulded base supports two baluster columns. The back of the lower part is divided in three panels with a rose carved upon the central one.

The upper body opens with two door-leaves, standing on a large belt where are located two drawers. This two registers are firmly delineated with mouldings. The five facets of the cabinet, as the door-leaves and drawers, are framed by balusters adorned with acanthus leaves.

Scrolls designed with *pasliglia* inlaid enrich the door-leaves and drawers. On the door-leaves this decor is centred around a darkened wood mirror.

This type of furniture has multiple uses. It was often meant to display the owner's valuable artifacts and this way advertising his own status.











This cabinet shows mixed influences. The sideboard structure is quite traditional while the technics used for its making certify its was produced in the second half of the 16th century.

The *pastiglia* technic was brought to France during the 16th century thanks to Italian artisans working on François I royal projects, such as Fontainebleau.

The use of diverse wood species and eggshells flatter the beautiful wood turning seen in the balusters and the refinement of the structure.

This credenza embodies the rigor, the elegance and the sophistication in vogue during François I's reign.





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