

Circle of Jacques du Broecq

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Circle of Jacques du Broecq

Charity sculpture

The Circle of Jacques du Broecq sculpture was most popular in the Northern French or the Flemish culture during the renaissance period. This sculpture is made of alabaster which is more luminous than the marble. It has the light color containing a soft surface curving. The alabaster, in this case, is the word that is used to describe the common types of stones that are used for curving. These could be gypsum and limestone marble¹. The statute sculpture was developed in the early 16th century by Jacques du Broecq.

Considering the appearance of the sculpture, it is appealing to the eye as it is shining. The surface has been gilded thus having to good visual impression to the observer. As seen, the sculpture background is a woman Charity who is nurturing three children, the two kids are held firmly by the woman and the third child is who is elder is calmly standing amid on her wriggling brood. Furthermore, the women are barefooted and standing on a raised ground. The placid look of the woman sculptured shows how humble the woman is.

The sculpture has also been curved and sized to have the dimensions of 139.1 by 44.5 by 31.4 cm. It dully fits the standards of the normal woman. This shows how women have the power to gather the children in a home set up. The alabaster that has been used to curve the sculpture brings a quality and fines in the appearance of the sculpture. Nonetheless, it adds the

¹ Wardropper, Ian, and Joseph Coscia. *European sculpture, 1401900, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011) 74

sensuous grace and elegance and elegance to the sculpture². The children are seen to be well secured on the arms of the woman. This depicts how the important role played by women in society in nursing children.

Furthermore, considering the price of the alabaster, it shows much value that the sculpture was accorded to. Josephine Bay Paul and the C. Michael Paul foundations purchased the sculpture in 1965. Due to its appearance, the sculpture is been admired by many. However, there is a likeness of fear of theft of the sculpture; this is due to the fact that, the crates have been fashioned so that it can shield the sculpture³. Furthermore, the sculpture has been clothed. It does not expose its nudeness; therefore it depicts how respectable the woman is.

Despite the aesthetic nature of the sculpture, it was used to symbolize the culture of the French and other culture that exists within the country. For instance, this sculpture of a woman holding kids represent how treasured women and church in during reconnaissance and the medieval period was. The church is a place where they could find peace. Besides this, it depicts to important role a woman do plays in the society. Women are the epitome of peace to our children and much respect should be accorded to them.

The color of the sculpture is homogeneous; no more paintings have been done to it. The color is appealing and can capture the attention of the viewer in the viewer within the museum.

² Wardropper, Ian, and Joseph Coscia. *European sculpture, 1401900, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011) 80

³ Wardropper, Ian, and Joseph Coscia. *European sculpture, 1401900, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011), 104

The sculpture has been kept in a protected area to guarantee it with a quality security. The alabaster does not over resilience to the adverse environmental or atmospheric conditions, thus there is a need to be protected. For instance, when exposed to high temperatures, it loses water molecules, leaving the gypsum elements alone. However, this process cannot be reversed back, and to correct it, some polishing is been done to the sculpture.

Furthermore, the clothing of the sculpture is hanging; this can show the incredibility in the finesse of the sculpture. Furthermore, one of the kids held by the woman is naked. This could depict how vulnerable children are in our societies; also it demonstrates how the woman plays a critical role in protecting children, just as what Jesus did base on the context of the church⁴. The sculpture is good for reference to the historical and cultural activities that were been done during the Renaissance periods.

Generally, the artwork plays an important role in conserving the culture of the people. It is, therefore, necessary if the practice is embraced in recent years. The museum provides the sculptures of a different period of ages portraying the culture which existed during those years. Furthermore, the sculpture that has been curved should provide a good visual impression that attracts the eye of a tourist or an observer. The sculpture can be analyzed and its information it represents can be extracted from it. Moreover, good storage of sculptures should be provided as it will be used in future for references. The alabasters too despite the fact they could be expensive, they should be made available such that, the present day artist could be able to design some sculptures that could be used in future to analyses on the cultural practices that exist.

⁴ Wardropper, Ian, and Joseph Coscia. *European sculpture, 1401900, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011), 78

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