

Fabbri Arte
Alto Antiquariato



FABBRI ARTE



The Walk on the Water

Gold and polychrome enamels

Northern Italy

End of 11th – Beginning of 12th Century

Measures: 5 x 3,5 in

Work analysis

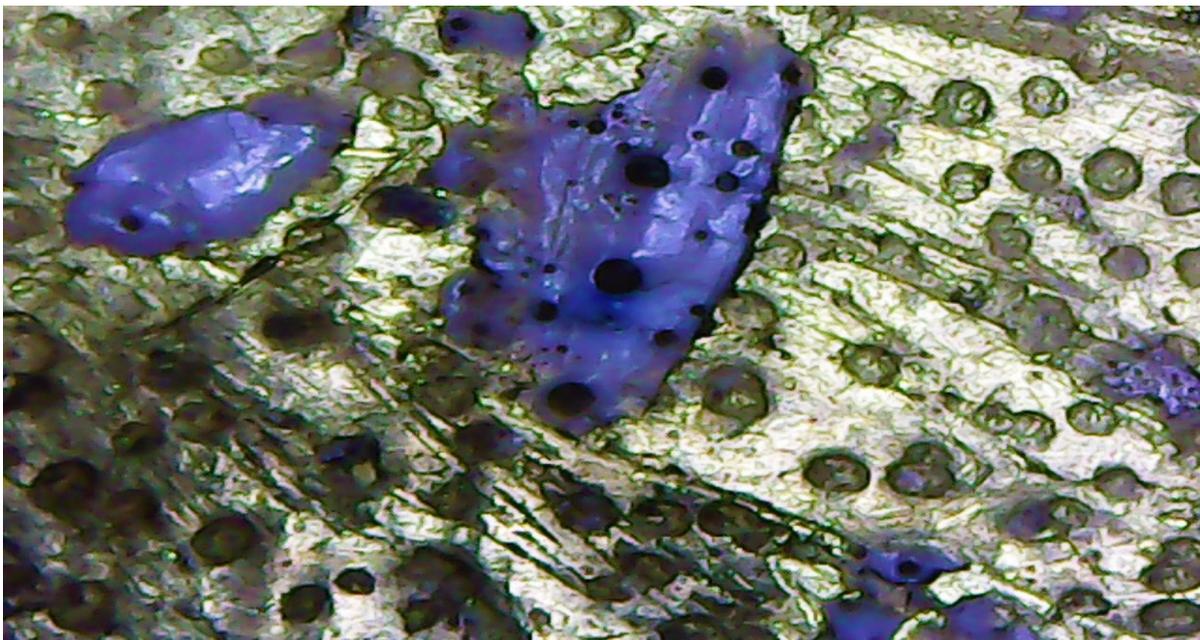
The work under analysis is a finely worked gold plate, coming from northern Italy, probably from the Adriatic area, and datable between the end of the 11th century and the beginning of the 12th century, depicting the miracle of the "Walk on the water".

It is a biblical episode narrated in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and John, sometimes in a slightly different way.

However, in all three versions Jesus is preceded by his disciples in a boat to Bethsaida, but when they are halfway in the middle of the lake, it is claimed that Jesus walked on it and joined them.

Focusing now on the properties of the object, upon careful observation we can see that on some points of the gold surface there are traces of enamels, respectively blue on the outer edge, and white on the inside.

Below we have an electron microscope photographic enlargement that demonstrates the consistency of the piece with what was previously stated.



The external part of the artifact is engraved with a vine branch motif: this plant, in the Bible, is a symbol of well-being, fertility and blessing.

Wine is also connected to it, a symbol of joy, a wedding feast and a covenant, as well as a reference to the miracle of the transmutation of water into wine.

In general, in the East it was an emblem of marked well-being, to the point that it was customary to identify human life by comparing it to a vine leaf.

Among these branches we find various animals represented, starting with the lamb, symbol of Christ and in particular of his sacrifice, through which he immolates himself to save humanity from Original Sin.

Then we have the swan, an animal generally associated with the figure of the Virgin Mary, but which is sometimes referred to as a symbol of the purity of Jesus, as in this case.

Finally we find the pelican, another important symbol of the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

In the Christian tradition, its iconography is inspired by the habit of these birds of bending their beaks towards their chests to feed their young with the fish they carry; the fact that the chest was tinged with red led to the mistaken belief that parents tore their chests to feed their offspring with their own blood.

This led the pelican to become symbolically an emblem of charity, as well as of the self-denial with which children are loved, and for this reason Christian iconography has made it the allegory of the supreme sacrifice of Christ, ascended to the Cross and pierced in the side by from which blood and water gushed, source of life for his men and sons.



*Detail of the pelican
between the vines*





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Ai sensi degli Art. 1490 – 1491 del Codice Civile, con la firma di questo documento Fabbri Arte di Juri Fabbri attesta e garantisce l'autenticità e la lecita provenienza dell'opera, come da D.L. n.42 del 22 gennaio 2004.



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