Joshua Lopez

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Professor Michael J. McAuliffe

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*Two pieces, so alike, yet so different*

Two great pieces are presented here. Each part of the Metropolitan Museum’s vast collection of art. Both depicting Madonna and Jesus Christ as a child. Both works of art are also by two different artists, even tough having many similarities and differences. The Madonna which is dressed in a pink attire is by Guariento di Arpo, Italian, active padua by 1338-died 1368/70. The other Madonna, which in blue attire, is by a follower of Giotto (Italian, Florentine or Paduan, first quarter 14th century). “Puzzled scholars. It may be by a Paduan follower of Giotto and was perhaps painted about 1310-1315”. This essay will express the comparisons and contrasting’s of these two paintings, at the best of the writer’s possibility.

The painting done by Guariento di Arpo, With Madonna and child, tempera on wood, gold ground, is of course a very good painting. Within this painting you can see true compassion between a mother and child, as the eyes of the mother are looking upon the child with joy. The Madonna is wearing a pink robe with a hood over her head. Pink giving off a nice warm motherly feel, great color for such piece. The mother’s body until her hips is visible. She’s holding young baby Jesus’s whole body in a stand-up right position, with his feet nestled firmly within her hands. Baby Jesus is also wearing a white and gold stripped robe, these colors I believe show divine and powerful affects, giving Jesus the look of royalty of God. Baby Jesus also has a rounded mini blonde afro, type haircut, this shows a halo, also presenting divine power. The wood that the painting is actually on, is very nicely carved as well. The wood is shaped as a pentagon type shape, or the point of a bullet. The painting consumes most of the wood, so it’s a good proportion. Also by the heads of the two, are two beautifully carved halo’s within the wood. This piece is very vibrant, and the colors chosen are great for this relationship of mother and child.

The second painting is by an unknown artist that even scholars do not know of. They do know that he was a follower of Giotto, though, which gives the impression that at least the man, studied beneath a great artist. Well the second Madonna and child, depicts Madonna holding baby Jesus, both gazing within each other’s eyes with love. Madonna is wearing a Blue, raggedy robe, with a pink undershirt. This robe gives a more realistic look, at what a real person would wear, and not something divine and beautifully put together. The colors in this painting is very dull, and faded. The painting also shows only from torso up of Madonna. Baby Jesus is being held close to his mother, as he’s up against her chest, gently touching his mom’s chin. Baby Jesus’s hair is kind of light brown in a afro type hairstyle, I guess to represent a halo. This particular painting also demonstrates about three colors total, pink, blue and apricot. The wood that the piece is on is shaped as a pentagon, without the top being pointy. Its grooved with an indentation of blue along the outer lines, with golden circles placed within. The painting is nicely done though.

Looking back at these two great paintings, there are obviously a great amount of similarities and differences. One is that both depict a Madonna and child. Also both Madonna’s are wearing robes, with the hood on. Both are also holding baby Jesus within their arms, in straight up positions. Each Madonna and child is also oddly placed within the same alignment, from Madonna on the left and Baby on the right, also both are centered inside the wood the same way. Each baby Jesus is wearing a robe as well, and each is doing some type of hand gesture, one holding his mothers chin and the other putting up some type of hand sign, or just holding his hand up in such manner. Even though both paintings have great similarities they also have a lot of differences. Each Madonna is wearing a different color robe, this small difference causes a lot of speculations, In one she has a pink and gold robe, giving off a warm, and divine feel. The other is a shanty bluish robe, giving off a more realistic feel on how woman actually dressed and were. Also the painting by Guariento di Arpo, has more carvings within the wood, and the halo’s are shown more within the carvings, really trying to give off the divine look. Whereas the other painting is more discrete with their showings, only showing a halo I believe with the hair of Jesus. These two paintings also have different color schemes. One very more vibrant then the other, the vibrant one being by Guariento di Arpo. Whilst the other more dull and sad looking. The Madonna’s are drawn differently as well. The Madonna with the blue robe, has a more elongated head structure, while the one painted by Guariento di Arpo, is more realistically structured. The faces of each baby Jesus is also a little too mature to be a baby, more like a young boy, with the ages between 4-6.

In my final analysis, I can say that both these paintings are very well painted and structured, in the sense that both give off a motherly, vibe between son and mom. Even though each painted by two totally different men, each has some of the same qualities as the next, which I find amazing, because art is such a vast way of expressing yourself. Artist’s back then should always be respected and appreciated. Because with little materials, they were able to create such great works. Nowadays, a few tossed paint, or arranged garbage can be considered great art, which is actually a joke.