

Poussin: The Holy Family on the Steps #1974 #Viking Press, 1974 #9780670569595

#Howard Hibbard

At first blush, Nicolas Poussin's painting *The Holy Family on the Steps* (1648) is a restrained and classical version of the conventional Holy Family of a thousand Christmas cards, or rather, an extended Holy Family with Saints Elizabeth and John (who, after all, must have been frequent visitors). Mary and Jesus occupy the central space; above Mary's right shoulder stands an urn filled with their special flower, the violet of humility. The open air above Jesus' head creates a kind of natural halo. At the left, Elizabeth directs her gaze toward Mary, and the infant John offers his baby cousin a Other articles where *The Holy Family on the Steps* is discussed: *Nicolas Poussin: The Raphael of our century*: among them Eliezer and Rebecca, *The Holy Family on the Steps*, and *The Judgment of Solomon*. In all of those the artist integrated the figures with their setting in a strict and uncompromising manner that resulted in scenes that are not only conceived in depth but also highly unified across; Read More. Poussin developed his composition meticulously and deliberately, using clear primary colors, simple forms, and a geometric organization to express the central importance of the Holy Family in Christian belief. Video. What does this Painting Tell Us? A Painting in Focus: Nicolas Poussin's Holy Family on the Steps. The Cleveland Museum of Art (organizer) (November 14, 1999-January 23, 2000). long-term loan. See what's new with book lending at the Internet Archive. In 2020 the Internet Archive has seen unprecedented use and we need your help. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our bandwidth demand skyrocketed. Right now we're getting over 1.1 million daily unique visitors and storing more than 70 petabytes of data. We build and maintain all our own systems, but we don't charge for access, sell user information, or run ads. Instead, we rely on individual generosity to fund our infrastructure. We're powered by thousands of donations, the majority of which are \$10 or less. Right now, we have a 2-to-1 Ma