

	Object:	Christ Appears to Mary Magdalene on Easter Morning (Noli me tangere)
	Museum:	Kunsthalle Bremen Am Wall 207 28195 Bremen (04 21) 3 29 08-0 info@kunsthalle-bremen.de
	Collection:	Alte Meister, Gemälde und Skulpturen
	Inventory number:	736-1957/3

Description

Cloaked in red, a spade in His hand, the Risen Christ appears first to Mary Magdalene, who, according to the biblical story, initially mistakes him for a gardener, and does not recognize him until Christ calls her by name. When she attempts to touch Him, He does not let her: “Touch me not (Noli me tangere); for I am not yet ascended to my Father” (John 20:14–17). In keeping with the motif of Christ as Gardener, the scene unfolds in a broad landscape. Flowers are still in bloom here, whereas the vegetables are ready to be harvested—an allusion to Paradise. At the same time, some of the plants may be interpreted as referring symbolically to what is happening. The thistle-like artichoke stands for the Passion of Christ, while the caterpillar and the butterfly represent the Resurrection. This painting is a joint work by Peter Paul Rubens and Jan Bruegel the Younger, whereby Rubens executed the figures and Bruegel painted the background and the plants, which have been reproduced in the minutest detail. Such a division of labor was not uncommon in Netherlandish painting, as artists specialized in certain painting genres.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Oil in wood
Measurements:	59.0 x 100.0 cm

Events

Painted	When	1620
	Who	Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)
	Where	

Painted	When	1620
	Who	Jan Brueghel the Younger (1601-1678)
	Where	
Was depicted (Actor)	When	
	Who	Mary Magdalena
	Where	
Was depicted (Actor)	When	
	Who	Jesus Christ
	Where	

Keywords

- Hand
- Landscape
- Painting
- Symbol