

	Object:	Christ as Man of Sorrows
	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:	1008-1969/6

Description

This panel painting is considered to be an early work of one of the most prominent masters of the Late Gothic. The artist, whose identity is unknown, was active from 1480 to 1515 in the area around Utrecht, as well as in Cologne, receiving this designation from his famous Saint Bartholomew Altarpiece, now housed in the Alte Pinakothek, Munich. The Bremen panel shows the tormented Christ, facing the viewer with the Instruments of the Passion (Arma Christi). He looks at us with large, sorrowful eyes, pointing to the gaping wound in His side, while drops of blood run from His head to his shoulder and chest. The painting conveys the Passion of Christ with immediacy, and served as an image for private devotion, in keeping with the widespread religious practices connected with the Passion. This work first calls for the viewer's pious compassion (*compassio*) and then his active emulation of it (*imitatio*). Sharing in the act of salvation and achieving a blessed state depended upon the pious intensity of the believer's efforts. Such images helped the devout to receive indulgences, as certain prayer practices were connected with specific motifs.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Oil on oak with white ground
Measurements:	44.0 x 31.0 cm

Events

Painted	When	1490
	Who	Master of the Saint Bartholomew Altarpiece (1470-1510)
	Where	

Keywords

- Arma Christi
- Painting