

Leandro Bassano

PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST ca. 1592

Leandro Bassano (June 10, 1557 – April 15, 1622) created this striking portrait sometime around 1592. He was a third generation religious and portrait painter. He and his brother Francesco learned their craft from their father Jacopo. The family took their name from the town where they lived, Bassano del Grappa in Italy's Veneto region close to both Verona and Venice.



Tragedy struck Leandro in 1592 when his father died and, less than 6 months later, Francesco committed suicide, leaving Leandro alone. This compelled him to relocate to nearby Venice where he studied under Tintoretto.

It's not known who the painter in this portrait is, though given the somber countenance, it could be a self-portrait of the artist. The work is recorded in the collection of Cosimo III de' Medici in 1685 and then later recorded in the inventory records at the Uffizi Gallery in 1798.

This work is in need of a complete restoration of both the painting and its frame.

There are small losses of paint in the lower part. The aged varnish has yellowed and also oxidized and this clouds the painting's surface, which is also warped due to a botched old lining.

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