

Basic Detail Report



Title Queen Blanche Relieving the Captive Prisoners

Date 1811

Primary Maker Mary Savage

Medium Embroidery: silk threads, metallic threads, chenille yarn, velvet, sequins and gouache on a plain-woven, cream-colored silk ground; plain-woven linen

Frame: wood, glass, gold and black paint

Description Needlework picture consisting of gold, cream, blue-green, light blue, red and white silk thread, blue-green, medium green, and brown chenille, untwisted silk floss, green velvet, gold metallic thread, sequins, and gouache on a plain-woven, cream-colored silk ground; the picture is labeled "MARY SAVAGE

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AD 1811" and "QUEEN BLANCHE RELIEVING THE PRISONERS". The picture shows

a woman in an empire-style dress, with an outstretched right arm, and a stick in

her lowered left hand. To her right is a young woman. Toward the left side of the

picture are three kneeling figures, a man, a woman and a child. These five

figures are located on a porch or courtyard in front of a tall brick or stone

building. The building has three windows, each of them with bars; a man is

facing out of the closest window. In the middle distance, behind the courtyard,

are three men, each wearing a cape and holding a spear. To the right of the

picture is a cliff with trees and plants at the top. In the far background is a body

of water; a ship is in the water and a castle is on the shore. The needlework

picture is behind glass that is painted black at the edges; the title is painted in

gold at the bottom center. The gilded wooden frame (original) consists of one

deeply curved molding. Each edge of the silk ground is sewn to a strip of linen,

which is in turn nailed or tacked to a wooden stretcher. The foreground is not

embroidered, but consists of a panel of green velvet sewn to the ground.

Stitches: The primary stitch on the needlework picture is satin stitch; it also

includes encroaching satin, couching and french knots. Condition: The silk

thread is faded moderately, and a number of threads are breaking and lifting

from the surface. The sheer silk overlay that makes up the dresses of Queen

Blanche and the adult female prisoner is shattering. The black and gold paint

used on the reverse of the glass is flaking severely; portions of the inscription in

gold paint have been repainted at a later date. The backing on the stretcher and

frame has been removed, leaving the back protected only by an old and very

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brittle paper board. The stretcher is not joined to the frame but is held in place with modern brackets.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of frame): 28 3/4 x 28 3/4in. (73 x 73cm)