



A Lady with a Dog

Date

ca. 1690-1700

Primary Maker

Giuseppe Maria Crespi

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

Under the direct influence of northern European painters working in Italy, the subject matter of Italian Baroque art expanded in the course of the seventeenth century to include landscape, still life, and depictions of everyday life. This intimate portrayal of a pretty young woman enticing her brown and white spaniel with a dog biscuit attests to the popularity of such so-called genre scenes

among Italian artists. Originally one of five works illustrating the senses, this painting was intended to represent smell; two other surviving works from the series include A Lady with a Cat and a Dead Mouse (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England), illustrating taste, and A Lady with a Dove (City Art Museum, Birmingham, England), portraying hearing. Crespi's painterly approach, bravura brushstroke, pastel palette, and informal compositions provided an important model for such early eighteenth-century Venetian Rococo painters as Piazzetta, Tiepolo, and Pietro Longhi.

Dimensions

Sight: 17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in. (44.1 x 34.9 cm) Framed: 24 1/8 x 20 1/4 x 3 in. (61.3 x 51.4 x 7.6 cm)