

**Brussat Sculpture Conservation, LLC**

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**Examination and Treatment Report**

April 6, 2025

**Client**

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Carrier Productions, LLC/Planting Fields Foundation

**Conservator**

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Melanie Brussat

**Object**

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Pendant of Standing Bishop

**Date**

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19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Artist/Attribution**

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Unknown

**Medium**

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Gilded wood

**Dimensions**

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45" H x 18.5" W

## Description

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Arched niche with a standing figure of a Bishop in robes and mitre, heaving a two-handled urn on cushion. Flanking Corinthian half-columns; cherub spandrels; cornice molding of egg and dart pattern. Scroll-eared back support.

## Condition

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The artwork suffered an impact, which detached the face of the cherub on the upper left. According to the damage report, there is glue residue on the break edge, indicating that this area has been broken and repaired before. The cherub's face has been saved for reattachment.

The top left wooden element is loose. There are losses of the gesso, paint, and gilding overall, in particular the bottom finial. The artwork is very dusty and dirty overall.

## Treatment Procedure

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1. The artwork was carefully dusted and vacuumed with a soft brush and a variable speed vacuum, avoiding the unstable areas.
2. The excess adhesive was removed from the break edges of the cherub's face using a small amount of water on a swab, along with gentle mechanical action with a scalpel and bamboo skewer. The break edges were dried with acetone to prevent swelling of the wood.
3. The break edges were sealed with dilute (5% in water) Kremer fish glue and allowed to dry.
4. The cherub's face was readhered with Kremer fish glue.
5. Note: due to the limited scope of this treatment, the gilding on the sculpture remains unstable. Moving/installing the sculpture, as well as changing relative humidity throughout the year, will most likely result in further losses of the gilding (Please save any gilding that detaches for possible reattachment). A more complete treatment is highly recommended to ensure the long-term preservation of the original gilding. Retouching the current losses will also greatly improve the look of the sculpture. The wooden element on the top left is also still loose and unstable, and should be reattached.

## Condition photographs

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1. Before Treatment, overall



2. After Treatment, overall



3. During treatment, removal of old adhesive from break edge:

Left: visible light.



Center: adhesive under UV illumination (before removal)



Right: adhesive under UV illumination (after removal)





4. During treatment, unstable gilding, before and after vacuuming



5. Before Treatment, detail of top left corner



6. After Treatment, detail of cherub's face readhered



7. Before Treatment, from above



8. After Treatment, from above

### Recommendations for Care and Maintenance

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1. When moving, handle from the sides. Avoid touching any flaking areas.
2. Stabilization of the gilding is highly recommended to ensure the long-term preservation of the original gilding. Retouching the current losses will also greatly improve the look of the sculpture. The wooden element on the top left is also still loose and unstable, and should be reattached.
3. If keeping the sculpture in an environment with stable relative humidity is not possible, keep away from direct sources of heat or air conditioning, and keep out of direct sunlight.
4. Due to the unstable gilding, it is recommended that dusting be done by a conservator only.