

Basic Detail Report



Santa Rita de Casia

Primary Maker

Artist Not Recorded

Medium

Tempera, gesso, pine wood

Description

Figure has usual black habit with torpedo sleeves and usual attributes, plus the red stigmata mark on her forehead, often omitted from New Mexican santos of this Saint. Homely, oversized head has fine red lines between brows and lower rim of upper eyelids. Background is unusual in that it is solidly painted in red instead of having

a border and light background. Further, the red area is not filled with flat color, but instead was brushed in small strokes (easily done in using tempera over yeso but seldom seen), in varied tones of red and yellow. This impressionist painting makes the background vibrate instead of being flat. It may have been done to produce an effect of rays of light, or even of drapery as strokes at both sides of panel are vertical while at top they are in a shallow horizontal curve, ending in right and left upper corners from which other strokes fan out to meet the lower verticals; the usual course of the painted swags on many retablos.

Dimensions

18.5 to 19 cm x 13 cm, 1 cm thick