

KLAAS MULLER

G I L L I S V A N V A L C K E N B O R C

The Rape of Helen of Troy

Gillis Van Valckenborch was Maarten's son and Frederik's brother, his cousin was Lucas Van Valckenborch. Because the family was Protestant they fled to Frankfurt in 1586, some five years later Gillis undertook a journey to Italy with his brother Frederik. He later started a studio in Frankfurt where he painted biblical and mythological scenes and figures, as well as protagonists from Greek and Roman history set in landscapes. Helen was a figure in Greek mythology said to have been the most beautiful woman in the world. She was believed to have been the daughter of Zeus and Leda. She was married to King Menelaus of Sparta. Her abduction by Paris of Troy was the most immediate cause of the Trojan War.

Our painting is alienating and has a distinctly manner language of form and use of colour typical of Gillis Van Valckenborgh's style with Italian influences but also influences from the Prague school and the painters around Rudolf II.

Original annotations on the back (see attachment)

Oil on copper, 17 x 35 cm ($6\frac{3}{4}$ x $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches)

