

KLAAS MULLER

W I L L E M V A N H E R P

Vision of a Saint, the Virgin, Child and Angels appearing

This impressive devotional painting by Willem van Herp is executed on an unusually large copper plate and remains in excellent condition. Known for his religious compositions on copper—many of which were destined for export to Spain—Van Herp demonstrates here not only his technical mastery but also his creative ingenuity.

The scene unfolds in a celestial vision: the Virgin Mary and Child appear enthroned on clouds, surrounded by angels in dynamic motion. Below, a kneeling saint receives a sacred garment, assisted by a heavenly figure, while an open book lies at his feet—symbolizing divine wisdom and devotion. The landscape, with its flowing river and dramatic sky, evokes a Rubenesque grandeur, yet the stylistic finesse and emotional sensitivity point more clearly to the influence of Anthony van Dyck.

Van Herp reveals himself as a gifted painter, a skilled landscapist, and a remarkable colourist. His use of copper enhances the luminosity and depth of the composition, giving the entire scene a jewel-like clarity and richness.

Oil on Copper, 76,5 x 99,5 cm

