

François Clouet French, before 1520 - 1572

A Lady in Her Bath

c. 1571

oil on oak overall: 92.3 × 81.2 cm (36 5/16 × 31 15/16 in.) framed: 116.84 × 106.68 × 7.62 cm (46 × 42 × 3 in.) Inscription: lower center on edge of bathtub: FR.IANETII.OPVS Samuel H. Kress Collection 1961.9.13

ENTRY

One of only two signed paintings by François Clouet, A Lady in Her Bath is a work of superb quality and a monument in the history of sixteenth-century French painting. Although the artist's signature was noted as early as 1874, the attribution to Clouet was challenged briefly in 1904 when Henri Bouchot cataloged the painting as possibly by François Quesnel (French, 1543 - 1619). [1] Since then, Clouet's authorship has been virtually undoubted.

In the foreground of the painting, framed by two swags of red drapery, a woman is seated in a bathtub. She is naked except for her jewelry [2] and what is apparently a bathing cap made of what appears to be velvet and a sheer white fabric edged in gold. She holds a dianthus, or pink, in her right hand. The bathtub is lined with a white cloth, and at the left a board, also covered with a white cloth, supports a bowl of fruit. Around the foot of the bowl are scattered herbs, fruit, and flowers. In the shallow middle ground a young boy reaches for the fruit in the bowl, and at the left a woman nurses an infant in swaddling clothes. Her ruddy complexion and coarse, animated features are in vivid contrast to the ivory skin and cool, idealized beauty of the woman in the tub.

In the background a female servant holding a large pitcher stands in front of a roaring fire, and one can imagine that her job is to provide a supply of hot water for the bath. Interestingly, her pose echoes that of the nursemaid. A landscape painting is set into the mantel of the fireplace, but only the lower left corner is visible. Behind and to the left of the servant is a chair whose back bears the embroidered image of a unicorn sitting underneath a tree. A framed mirror hangs above the chair. The window at the far left opens onto a tree set against the sky.

A Lady in Her Bath © National Gallery of Art, Washington

The limited number of pictures, almost all portraits, that can be given securely to Clouet makes it difficult to establish a cogent sense of stylistic development for his oeuvre. A Lady in Her Bath has, with a few exceptions, been placed either in the 1550s or around 1571. [3] The identification of the sitter has been a determining factor for date, especially by those who see her as Diane de Poitiers (1499–1566), duchesse de Valentinois and mistress of Henri II. Setting identification aside for the moment, and considering style and, to an extent, fashion, a good case may be made for a date around 1571, as Louis Dimier first proposed in 1904 and in 1925. [4] Perhaps the strongest comparison is with Clouet's portrait of Elizabeth of Austria (1554–1592) (Paris, Musée du Louvre), which is datable on the basis of the preparatory drawing (Paris, Bibliothèque nationale), inscribed 1571 on the reverse. [5] The silken, almost translucent modeling of skin tones, especially evident in Elizabeth's hands, finds a counterpart in A Lady in Her Bath, as does the fluent, meticulous description of fabrics and jewels. The hairstyles of both women are virtually identical, but without knowing how long this style was fashionable it is hard to gauge its importance as an indicator of date. [6]

Comparisons with Clouet's paintings from the 1550s and 1560s are neither convincing nor particularly instructive. For example, in the portrait of Pierre Quthe (1599–c. 1588) (Paris, Musée du Louvre), dated 1562, the striking flashes of highlights on the drapery swag at the left create a surface effect akin to metallic foil or cellophane, very different from the subtler textures of the draperies in the National Gallery of Art panel. [7]

As to the possible identity of the sitter, the three candidates most often proposed are Diane de Poitiers, Mary Stuart (1542–1587), and Marie Touchet (1549–1638). Traditionally the woman in the tub has been identified as Diane de Poitiers. The source of this identification seems to be Georges Guiffrey's publication of 1866 in which he describes and discusses a painting in the Musée de Versailles by Henri Lehmann (1814–1882), then called "after Primaticcio," but in fact a copy after the Gallery's picture. [8] Guiffrey suggested that the sitter was not Gabrielle d'Estrées but Diane de Poitiers and that the two children depicted were those of Henri II, who would have been guarded and educated by the royal mistress. In the earliest known publication of *A Lady in Her Bath*, the sales catalog of 1874, the sitter is identified as Diane de Poitiers, and the Gallery retained this appellation with implied doubt until 1999. [9]

Most who identify the sitter as Diane de Poitiers also accept a date sometime in the 1550s for the painting or place it before Henri II's death in 1559. [10] The infant in swaddling was thus identified with Henri's son, Charles, the future Charles IX, born in 1550, while the older boy could represent the dauphin François, born in 1544. The identification strained the bounds of credibility for some critics who, while acknowledging that Diane was renowned for her nearly ageless beauty, pointed out that in 1550 she would have been about fifty-one years old. [11]

Because of her power, influence, and patronage of the arts there are numerous works that purport to represent Diane de Poitiers, but most are either allegorical or unverified. [12] Portrait drawings would, however, seem to give the most direct, accurate evidence of her appearance. Sometimes attributed to Clouet, a drawing (Chantilly, Musée Condé) inscribed "La Duchesse de Valentinois" is usually dated around 1550. [13] A second drawing, also in Chantilly and inscribed "La gran senechalle," is generally accepted as a depiction of Diane around 1535. [14] Comparing these faces with that of the woman in the Gallery's painting, one does not recognize the distinctive aspects of Diane de Poitiers's physiognomy, but instead one is struck by the high degree to which the woman's face is idealized.

There are other reasons for eliminating Diane de Poitiers as a candidate. First, as Albert Pomme de Mirimonde observed, *A Lady in Her Bath* contains none of the usual symbols, such as the crescent moon of the goddess Diana, or the colors black and white associated with Diane de Poitiers. [15] Second, there is the question of date. If, as seems likely, the painting dates to c. 1571, it seems unlikely that it would represent Diane, who died in 1566 and whose prestige and influence derived in large part from that of Henri II, who died even earlier, in 1559. Further, as demonstrated by Sheila Ffolliott, Henri's widow Catherine de' Medici (1519–1589) immediately took steps to aggrandize her power as regent and at the same time to eclipse that of her former rival, Diane de Poitiers. [16]

Roger Trinquet and Jean Ehrmann date *A Lady in Her Bath* to 1570/1571 and identify the sitter as Mary Stuart (Mary, Queen of Scots). [17] The painting is interpreted as a political allegory of satire against Mary and commissioned by a member of the Huguenot faction in France, possibly François, maréchal de Montmorency. Mary Stuart was in France from 1548 until mid-August of 1561, when she sailed for Scotland following the death of her husband François II on December 5, 1560. Two drawings, both in the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, and both attributed to Clouet, are regarded as authentic images of Mary, Queen of Scots. One of the drawings is dated about 1555, while the second,

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showing Mary in white mourning dress, may be dated between 1559 and 1561. [18] A second drawing of Mary in mourning dress (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fogg Art Museum) is also attributed to Clouet. [19]

Although the sitter's face in *A Lady in Her Bath* is highly idealized, the oval shape and slightly prominent chin might be compared to the visage in the drawings of Mary Stuart as a widow. Properly cautious, Colin Eisler nonetheless found much to recommend this identification. [20] To my mind, however, this hypothesis is severely weakened by Trinquet's and Ehrmann's iconographic analysis, which strains to associate objects in the painting with Mary Stuart. For example, the black bands around the infant in swaddling are seen as a reference to the cross of Saint Andrew and hence to Scotland. The young boy is associated with Mary's son James, born in 1566; his gesture of reaching for grapes symbolizes his desire for the Scottish throne. The unicorn in the background is interpreted as a multiple allusion to Mary Stuart and her second husband, Lord Darnley, who was murdered in 1567. Further, the unicorn and the pink held by the sitter, symbols of purity and fidelity, are here interpreted as a satirical comment on Mary's many affairs and lack of virtue.

The suggestion that the sitter might be Marie Touchet, mistress to Charles IX, was first put forward by Dimier and more strongly endorsed by Irene Adler. [21] Several subsequent authors have accepted this possibility along with a late date for the painting. [22] Unfortunately, there are no documented images of Marie Touchet. A drawing in the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, presumed to depict her, is dated around 1574 and shows no points of resemblance to the woman in the Gallery's painting. [23]

There does not seem to be enough visual or documentary evidence to permit identification of the sitter as any of the three women discussed above. The possibility that *A Lady in Her Bath* is wholly allegorical or symbolic should not be precluded, but from the somewhat awkward way the head is joined to the body it would seem that a specific person was depicted. Because of the abstract canon of beauty imposed on this woman's face, it may never be possible to identify her with certainty.

The pictorial and cultural antecedents of this painting are many and varied, and a recounting of sources is useful in establishing a context for possible interpretations. A number of authors have observed that the pose of the woman in the bathtub was derived from a composition by Leonardo da Vinci (Florentine, 1452

- 1519) known as the Monna Vanna, which depicted the mistress of Giuliano de' Medici. [24] Leonardo's original is lost, but it is known through two works by followers: a drawing [25] and a painting sometimes attributed to Francesco Melzi (Italian, 1493 - c. 1570). The woman's torso is positioned more frontally in the painted version than in the drawing and therefore is more of a prototype for the pose in the Gallery's painting. Leonardo's Monna Vanna, shown nude in halflength and facing the viewer, essentially established the format and type for portrayals of courtesans and mistresses and was emulated in Italy, France, and northern Europe. [26] In addition to A Lady in Her Bath, the presence in France of Leonardo's composition in some form may be inferred from a painting attributed to Joos van Cleve (Netherlandish, active 1505/1508 - 1540/1541) (location unknown), [27] probably dating to Joos's sojourn in France and to its somewhat more diffused influence on paintings showing women at their toilet by anonymous artists of the School of Fontainebleau. It should also be mentioned that a related depiction of a mistress, La Fornarina (Rome, Galleria Nazionale, Palazzo Barberini) by Raphael (Marchigian, 1483 - 1520), engendered a copy by an artist of the School of Fontainebleau (Atlanta, High Museum of Art). [28] Moreover, Lorne Campbell sees in the pose of the woman in the Gallery's picture the influence of Raphael's Joanna of Aragon (Paris, Musée du Louvre), which was painted as a gift for François I and presumably could have been seen by Clouet. [29] The example and influence of Leonardo's Monna Vanna underscore the notion that A Lady in Her Bath represents a mistress or courtesan.

In France, as elsewhere in Europe, attitudes toward baths and bathing varied considerably in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Baths were at once regarded as healthy and hygienic and as centers for merrymaking, drinking, and licentious behavior. While the public steam bath was at times condemned as a gathering place for prostitutes, a private bath in one's home, as seen here, was a luxury reserved for the privileged and noble few. [30] Contemporary paintings and prints depict both rectangular tubs lined with white cloth, similar to the one in this painting, and round tubs. [31] The presence of draperies in several of these representations suggests that they may have been an integral part of the bath as devices to protect the bather from chilly drafts.

It should also be noted that a suite of rooms—three baths and three "rest" rooms and a vestibule, forming an "appartement des Bains"—was part of François I's residence at Fontainebleau. Documents indicate that in addition to having stucco work and painted ceilings, the nonbathing rooms were decorated with paintings

from the king's collection. These baths were built in conscious emulation of antique baths, and this revived classicism may suggest a context for viewing the Gallery's painting. [32]

The influence of Titian (Venetian, 1488/1490 - 1576) has also been cited in regard to *A Lady in Her Bath.* The motif of the servant in the background performing a domestic chore is seen as deriving from such paintings as the *Venus of Urbino* (Florence, Galleria degli Uffizi), while the use of background draperies in this and other paintings by Clouet is thought to derive from Titian's full-length portrait of Charles V (Madrid, Museo Nacional del Prado). [33] *A Lady in Her Bath* also shows affinities to the highly polished surfaces and icy eroticism of *An Allegory of Venus and Cupid* (London, National Gallery) by Agnolo Bronzino (Florentine, 1503 - 1572), possibly the painting Giorgio Vasari (Florentine, 1511 - 1574) described as belonging to François I. [34]

Italian mannerist style and iconography were an essential part of the French court in the persons of Rosso Fiorentino (Florentine, 1494 - 1540) and Francesco Primaticcio (Italian, 1504 - 1570), who were formative influences on the artists of the School of Fontainebleau. As a court artist, Clouet would have been familiar with the works produced by this group, and several paintings of *A Lady at Her Toilet* from the School of Fontainebleau have often been associated with *A Lady in Her Bath*. Paintings by anonymous artists in the museums of Dijon, Basel, and Worcester, Massachusetts, depict a woman facing right and wearing only jewelry and a transparent peignoir. [35] She sits at a table bearing jewels, flowers, and a mirror supported by naked figures. In the background a servant kneels in front of an open chest. The content of these paintings, like that of the Gallery's painting, is open to multiple interpretations centering on luxury, eroticism, and Venus.

The relationship of this set of images to *A Lady in Her Bath* is provocative but not wholly clear. Particularly intriguing is Charles Sterling's belief that these paintings are replicas of a lost Clouet, painted around 1560, that was a pendant to *A Lady in Her Bath*. [36] Although it may never be proved or disproved, this suggestion is appealing at first glance, especially given the compositional symmetry and related subject matter. There are, however, problems in reconciling the dates of the pictures. The paintings in Dijon, Basel, and Worcester are not dated, and while c. 1560 has been proposed, it is possible that some or all could be as late as c. 1585/1590. [37] Moreover, to accept a date of c. 1560 for *A Lady in Her Bath* means finding it similar to the portrait of Pierre Quthe (Paris, Musée du Louvre) of 1562. Although it is hard to see the depictions of *A Lady at Her Toilet* as

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convincingly congruent with the Gallery's picture, these paintings underscore the connections between the imagery of the School of Fontainebleau and that used by Clouet.

Several authors have observed the influence of sixteenth-century Netherlandish art in *A Lady in Her Bath,* calling attention to the robust, earthy nursemaid and the foreground still life. [38] Joos van Cleve—who, as mentioned above, painted a version of Leonardo's *Monna Vanna* while at court—is often cited, but Quentin Massys (Netherlandish, 1466 - 1530) and Marinus van Reymerswaele (c. 1490–1567) have also been mentioned as influences. Charles Cuttler compared the boy reaching for the fruit with the children and still-life elements present in *Family Portrait* (Kassel, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen) by Maerten van Heemskerck (Netherlandish, 1498 - 1574) and the background of the painting with the interiors of Pieter Aertsen's (1507/1508–1575) pictures. [39]

The combination of Italian and Netherlandish influence to be seen in A Lady in Her Bath illustrates the common view that the art of France mirrors its geographic location between Italy and the north of Europe. Particularly vexing is the issue of meaning or interpretation, and I have not found a satisfying, coherent, and convincing iconographic program that includes all the objects in A Lady in Her Bath. As a depiction of a beautiful woman, the painting may be considered as part of the Petrarchan verbal and visual tradition of praising and describing the attractiveness of women (especially courtesans or mistresses) within the framework of courtly, idealized love. [40] Jillian Bradshaw and Dorothy M. Jones see the flowers, fruit, and even the white cloth lining the bath as Petrarchan metaphors for the loveliness of the sitter. [41] Mythological associations are inevitable. Both here and in other images of women bathing, Hidemichi Tanaka sees allusions to Venus and the sea, with the painting becoming an expression of the philosopher Marsilio Ficino's (1433–1499) neoplatonism in France. [42] Bradshaw and Jones mention not only Venus and Diana in connection with the Gallery's picture, but also Bathsheba and Susanna, both biblical examples of a bathing woman involved in stories of lust and passion. [43] They then make a rather astonishing leap to propose symbolic associations with the Holy Family. The young woman in the bath and the wet-nurse are compared to the Virgin and Saint Anne, respectively. For Bradshaw and Jones the nursing child calls to mind the Christian virtue of caritas, which can be merged with Venus's erotic love or even with cupiditas, its opposite. [44]

The contradictions inherent in this approach do, however, illustrate the difficulties of assigning a single, specific meaning to objects. For example, the mirror on the back wall can be interpreted as an attribute of Venus, an emblem of vanitas, an allusion to self-knowledge, or a symbol of sight as one of the five senses. [45] Beneath the mirror is an image of a unicorn, a symbol of purity and virginity [46] that is difficult to reconcile with what may be the depiction of a mistress.

Similarly, divergent or even conflicting interpretations are possible for the fruit, flowers, and herbs on the board over the bathtub. The bowl contains a pear, an apple, what may be a quince, cherries, and a bunch of grapes. Together they call up notions of ripeness, sensuality, and the sense of taste, all ideas that are appropriate to the setting, but it is also possible to invest the apple, grapes, and cherries with religious connotations. [47] The flowers have been identified as bird's-foot violet to the immediate left of the sitter's hand, two strawflowers further to the left, and above her hand an unidentified species of white rose. [48] While I am not aware of the meaning of the strawflowers, multiple interpretations of the violet and the rose are possible. [49] To the left of the fruit bowl are sprigs of rosemary, oregano, and juniper. While juniper and rosemary have symbolic value, all three herbs could have been aromatics added to the bathwater to make it fragrant. [50]

The pink held by the woman also has multiple meanings. In northern Europe from the late fifteenth century onward, the flower was an emblem of engagement or marriage and, by extension, alluded to purity, virginity, and fidelity. [51] For James Snyder the painting thus became a depiction of the "mistress as bride." [52] The pink was also associated with Christ and the Virgin and with the passion of Christ. [53] Eisler cleverly suggested that Clouet used the flower as a rebus, or visual pun, on his name; in Dutch the pink is called "nail flower" (*nagelbloem*), and *clou*, nail in French, would be a homonym for Clouet. [54] If this is a reference to the artist's name, it is a unique occurrence. In the absence of a viable overall iconographic program it is unwise, I think, to insist on any specific meaning for the pink.

A copy of *A Lady in Her Bath* (Chantilly, Musée Condé) is usually assigned to an anonymous French artist working around 1600, and the sitter is identified as Gabrielle d'Estrées. [55] The composition differs from the Gallery's panel in certain details, such as the bouquets of flowers pinned to the drapery or the grisaille over the fireplace. These motifs occur in other full copies (Paris, Musée des Arts Décoratifs; [56] London, art market, 1982 [57]), in Henri Lehmann's copy (Château d'Azay le Rideau, Musée de la Renaissance, on deposit from the Musée de

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Versailles), [58] and in a partial copy showing the nursemaid and the servant with a pitcher (Naples, Museo di Capodimonte). [59] Other details, in particular the arrangement of fruit, flowers, and herbs, are closer to *A Lady in Her Bath*, suggesting that the Chantilly painting was as well known as Clouet's original. The nursemaid, in reverse, and the servant girl appear in a painting, *Femmes Nues au Bain* (Lyon, Musée des Beaux-Arts), [60] attributed to a French artist working at the end of the sixteenth century. In addition, copies were made of the left half of *A Lady in Her Bath* [61] and of the nursemaid and child; [62] the present location of both paintings is, however, unknown.

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Collection data may have been updated since the publication of the print volume. Additional light adaptations have been made for the presentation of this text online.

John Oliver Hand January 1, 2009

NOTES

- Palais du Louvre and Bibliothèque nationale, *Exposition des primitifs français* (Paris, 1904), 88, no. 226, as by François Quesnel, dated around 1580.
- [2] Nancy Zinn, summer intern in the department of northern Renaissance painting, discusses the jewelry in a memorandum dated 1992 (NGA curatorial files). Of interest is the ring worn on the little finger of the left hand that appears identical to those on the little finger of the left hands of Pierre Quthe and Elizabeth of Austria. Zinn suggests that the ring may be an original design by Clouet. There is no way of knowing whether the ring had special significance or was simply a studio prop.
- [3] Maurice W. Brockwell, Abridged Catalogue of the Pictures at Doughty House, Richmond, Surrey, in the Collection of Sir Herbert Cook, Bart (London, 1932), 7, was apparently the first to specifically propose a date of c. 1550/1551.

- [4] Louis Dimier, Le portrait du XVIe siècle aux primitifs français: notes et corrections au catalogue officiel sur cette partie de l'exposition d'avril-juillet 1904 (Paris, 1904), 24; Louis Dimier, Histoire de la peinture de portrait en France au XVIe siècle, vol. 2 (Paris, 1925), 127, no. 13. In both instances hairstyle is cited as the basis for the date. Louis Dimier, "Clouet, François," in Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart, ed. Ulrich Thieme, Felix Becker, and Hans Vollmer, vol. 7 (Leipzig, 1912), 117, however, put forward a date of c. 1562, perhaps on the basis of perceived similarities to the portrait of Pierre Quthe.
- [5] For basic information on the painting see Isabelle Compin and Anne Roquebert, École française: catalogue sommaire illustré des peintures du Musée du Louvre et du Musée d'Orsay (Paris, 1986), 1:138. For the drawing see Etienne Moreau-Nélaton, Les Clouet et leurs émules (Paris, 1924), 1: fig. 106, 3:76, no. 342; Jean Adhémar, French Drawing of the XVI Century (New York, 1955), 129, no. 57.
- [6] What seems to be the same hair treatment appears in portrait drawings that are dated primarily on a stylistic basis to the period c. 1558/1560, suggesting that the style was in vogue for at least ten years. See André Blum, *The Last Valois 1515–1590: Costume of the Western World* (London, 1951), 20, pl. 19, *Madeleine de Gaignou de Saint-Bohaire* (Chantilly, Musée Condé), c. 1560. Compare also the hairstyle in the portrait drawings of Elizabeth and Marguerite, daughters of Henri II, c. 1559 and c. 1560, respectively (both Chantilly, Musée Condé), repro. Etienne Moreau-Nélaton, *Les Clouet et leurs émules* (Paris, 1924), 2: figs. 208, 219.
- [7] Albert Châtelet, La peinture française: XVe et XVIe siècles (Geneva, 1992), 109, repro.
- [8] Georges Guiffrey, Dianne de Poytiers: lettres inedites (Paris, 1866; repr. Geneva, 1970), 239–241. Lehmann's painting has for some time been at Château d'Azay le Rideau; see note 58.
- [9] Beginning with William E. Suida and Fern Rusk Shapley, Paintings and Sculpture from the Kress Collection Acquired by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 1951–1956 (Washington, DC, 1956), 52, the name was placed inside quotation marks, and the painting was dated "probably c. 1571" in subsequent National Gallery of Art catalogs.
- [10] Among those who accept a date in the 1550s are Reginald H. Wilenski, French Painting, 2nd ed. (Boston, 1949), 31–32; Charles Seymour, Art Treasures for America: An Anthology of Paintings and Sculpture in the Samuel H. Kress Collection (London, 1961), 114; Albert Châtelet and Jacques Thuillier, French Painting from Fouquet to Poussin (Geneva, 1963); André Chastel, "Diane de Poitiers: 'L'eros de la beauté froide,'" in Friendship's Garland: Essays Presented to Mario Praz on His Seventieth Birthday (Rome, 1966), 101; Charles D. Cuttler, Northern Painting from Pucelle to Bruegel:

Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Centuries (New York, 1968), 466; James Snyder, Northern Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, The Graphic Arts from 1350 to 1575 (Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1985), 519.

- [11] One of the first was Claude Phillips, whose article in the London Daily Telegraph, October 18, 1911, is cited in Grafton Galleries, Exhibition of Old Masters in Aid of the National Art Collections Fund (London, 1911), 78.
- [12] For example, the painting from the School of Fontainebleau, Diane chasseresse, and the sculpture, Diane au repos, sometimes attributed to Jean Goujon (both Paris, Musée du Louvre), have been considered representations of Diane de Poitiers. Many other images of the goddess Diana have been interpreted as allegorical references to Diane de Poitiers, such as the paintings in the collection of the Earl of Spencer, Althorp, and the Musée de la Vénerie, Senlis; see Louis Dimier, "An Idealized Portrait of Diane de Poitiers," Burlington Magazine 24 (Nov. 1913): 89-90; Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, L'école de Fontainebleau, entries by Sylvie Béguin (Paris, 1972), 210, no. 237. Another version was put up for sale, Sotheby's New York, May 30, 1991, no. 1. See also Anatole de Montaiglon, "Diane de Poitiers et son goût dans les arts," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 2, 17 (1878): 289-304; Anatole de Montaiglon, "Diane de Poitiers et son goût dans les arts," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 2, 18 (1879): 152–177; Françoise Bardon, Diane de Poitiers et le mythe de Diane (Paris, 1963); Philippe Erlander, "Diane de Poitiers-The Myth," Connoisseur 163 (1966): 83-87. Patricia Z. Thompson, "Diane de Poitiers: A Reassessment," Stanford French Review (Spring 1989): 49–63, is a succinct discussion and biography.
- [13] Raoul de Broglie, "Les Clouet de Chantilly," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 6, 77 (May 1971): 327, no. 328, repro.
- [14] Raoul de Broglie, "Les Clouet de Chantilly," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 6, 77 (May 1971): 313, no. 249, repro.; see also Bibliothèque nationale, *Les Clouet & la cour des rois de France: de François ler à Henri IV* (Paris, 1970), 19, no. 5, pl. 2.
- [15] Albert Pomme de Mirimonde, review of Albert Châtelet and Jacques Thuillier, La peinture française de Fouquet à Poussin, Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 6, 63 (1964): 370–371. In the Bath of Diana (Rouen, Musée des Beaux-Arts), attributed to Clouet, the figure of Diana is thought to personify Diane de Poitiers, while at the upper left the mounted figure wearing black and white is identified as Henri II. Unfortunately, as François Bergot pointed out to me in conversation, June 18, 1993, the man's face has been repainted. See André Blum, Le bain de Diane (Paris, 1921); Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, L'école de Fontainebleau, entries by Sylvie Béguin (Paris, 1972), 54–57, no. 54.
- [16] Sheila Ffolliott, "Catherine de' Medici as Artemisia: Figuring the Powerful Widow," in *Rewriting the Renaissance: The Discourses of Sexual Difference*

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in Early Modern Europe, ed. Margaret W. Ferguson, Maureen Quilligan, and Nancy J. Vickers, Women in Culture and Society (Chicago, 1986), 227–241; Sheila Ffolliott, "Casting a Rival into the Shade: Catherine de' Medici and Diane de Poitiers," *Art Journal* 48 (Summer 1989): 138–143.

- [17] Roger Trinquet, "L'allégorie politique au XVIe siècle: La Dame au Bain de François Clouet (Washington)," Bulletin de la Societé de l'Histoire de l'Art Français (1966): 99–119; Jean Ehrmann, typescript, February 16, 1968, based on a lecture given at the National Gallery of Art on May 21, 1967, in NGA curatorial files. Trinquet and Ehrmann were acquainted, and their interpretations are basically in agreement.
- [18] Helen Smailes and Duncan Thomson, *The Queen's Image: A Celebration of Mary, Queen of Scots* (Edinburgh, 1987), 20–21, no. 5, 30–31, no. 13.
- [19] Helen Smailes and Duncan Thomson, *The Queen's Image: A Celebration of Mary, Queen of Scots* (Edinburgh, 1987), 32, no. 14. This useful catalog of an exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery also contains a chronology of Mary Stuart's life, numerous illustrations, and an essay on the authentic portraits.
- [20] Colin Eisler, Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian (Oxford, 1977), 255. It is an interesting indication of the difficulties inherent in interpreting this material that Thomson in Helen Smailes and Duncan Thomson, The Queen's Image: A Celebration of Mary, Queen of Scots (Edinburgh, 1987), 14, believes Mary's features are to be found in A Lady at Her Toilet (Worcester, MA, Worcester Art Museum), discussed later in this entry. Further, Roger Trinquet, "Le 'Bain de Diane' du musée de Rouen: nouvel essai d'interprétation," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 6, 71 (Jan. 1968): 1–16, claims that Mary Stuart is depicted twice in the Bath of Diana (Rouen, Musée des Beaux-Arts).
- [21] Louis Dimier, Histoire de la peinture de portrait en France au XVIe siècle, vol. 1 (Paris, 1924), 95–96; Irene Adler, "Die Clouet: Versuch einer Stilkritik," Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen in Wien, N.F. 3 (1929): 233.
- [22] Among those who find the identification possible are Anthony Blunt, Art and Architecture in France: 1500 to 1700 (London, 1953), 69–70; Linda Murray, "The French Portrait," History Today 5 (1955): 5; Gerd Muehsam, French Painters and Paintings from the Fourteenth Century to Post-Impressionism (New York, 1970), 43–45; Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti, "Pertinenze francesi nel Cinquecento," Critica d'Arte 19 (1972): 46; Howard Risatti, "A French Court Portrait," Bulletin of the Krannert Art Museum 2 (1976): 18, 20.
- [23] Bibliothèque nationale, Les Clouet & la cour des rois de France: de François ler à Henri IV (Paris, 1970), 52, no. 98, pl. 23. The description cited by H. Hauser in the biography of Marie Touchet in La Grande Encyclopédie, inventaire raisonné des sciences, des lettres et des arts, par une société de savants et de gens de lettres: sous la direction de MM. Berthelot...

Hartwig Derenbourg [et al.] (Paris, 1886–1902), 31:206, "Les chroniqueurs lui donnent un visage rond, l'oeil vif, le front petit," does not match the oval face of the woman in the Gallery's painting.

- [24] Perhaps the first to discuss the influence of Leonardo was Salomon Reinach, "Diane de Poitiers et Gabrielle d'Estrées," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 5, 20 (1920): 168, who credits Sir Herbert Cook and Bernard Berenson with the suggestion. See also André de Hevesy, "L'histoire véridique de la Joconde," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 6, 40 (July 1952): 18–19, Anthony Blunt, *Art and Architecture in France: 1500 to 1700* (London, 1953), 69–70, and several subsequent authors, such as Albert Châtelet and Jacques Thuillier, *French Painting from Fouquet to Poussin* (Geneva, 1963), 111.
- [25] The drawing in Chantilly and three related paintings are reproduced in André de Hevesy, "L'histoire véridique de la Joconde," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 6, 40 (July 1952): 12–13.
- [26] David Alan Brown and Konrad Oberhuber, "Monna Vanna and La Fornarina: Leonardo and Raphael in Rome," in Essays Presented to Myron P. Gilmore (Florence, 1978), 2:25–86; Monika Ingenhoff-Danhäuser, Maria Magdalena: Heilige und Sünderin in der italienischen Renaissance (Tübingen, Germany), 1984, 55–59.
- [27] Reproduced in Max J. Friedlaender, *Early Netherlandish Painting* (Leiden, 1967–1972), 9: pl. 118, no. 114a; also reproduced is Bartholomaeus Bruyn's version of this theme (Nuremberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum), which testifies to the influence of this composition in Germany.
- [28] La Fornarina and the version in Atlanta are reproduced and discussed in Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, La Dame à sa toilette (Dijon, 1988), 9–11. See also David Alan Brown and Konrad Oberhuber, "Monna Vanna and La Fornarina: Leonardo and Raphael in Rome," in Essays Presented to Myron P. Gilmore (Florence, 1978), 2:37–60.
- [29] Lorne Campbell, *Renaissance Portraits: European Portrait-Painting in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Centuries* (New Haven, 1990), 7; Raphael's portrait is reproduced on 63.
- [30] Georges Vigarello, Concepts of Cleanliness: Changing Attitudes in France since the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1988); Kunstgewerbemuseum, Bäder, Duft und Seife: Kulturgeschichte der Hygiene (Cologne, 1976); Bernard Rudofsky, Now I Lay Me Down to Eat: Notes and Footnotes on the Lost Art of Living (Garden City, NY, 1980). There are references to baths and bathing in Danielle Régnier-Bohler, "Imagining the Self," in A History of Private Life, ed. Philippe Ariès and Georges Duby, vol. 2, Revelations of the Medieval World (Cambridge, MA, 1988), 360–361, 363–366; Georges Duby and Philippe Braunstein, "The Emergence of the Individual," in A History of Private Life, vol. 2, 600–610.

- [31] Rectangular bathtubs are shown in School of Fontainebleau, Gabrielle d'Estrées and One of Her Sisters (Paris, Musée du Louvre), reproduced in Jean Jacques Lévêque, L'école de Fontainebleau (Neuchâtel, 1984), 136–137; and related paintings of Two Women in a Bath (Lyon, Musée des Beaux-Arts, and Florence, Palazzo Vecchio), reproduced in Roger Trinquet, "L'allégorie politique dans la peinture française au XVIe siècle: les Dames au Bain," Bulletin de la Societé de l'Histoire de l'Art Français (1967): 7–25, figs. 9, 10. Circular tubs, also accompanied by hanging draperies, appear in Antonio Fantuzzi's etching after Primaticcio, Mars and Venus Bathing, and in a painting of the School of Fontainebleau, Venus at Her Toilet (Paris, Musée du Louvre), both reproduced in Jean Jacques Lévêque, L'école de Fontainebleau (Neuchâtel, 1984), 93, 134.
- [32] Chantal Sibylle Eschenfelder, *Die Bäder Franz I. in Fontainebleau*, Schriften aus dem Institut für Kunstgeschichte der Universität München, Band 55 (Munich, 1991), 17, underscores the classical analogy and cites the foreword of Guillaume Du Choul's book, *Discours de la Réligion des anciens Romains* (1566), which is dedicated to Henri II and compares the baths at Fontainebleau in their healthfulness and sumptuousness with the baths of Agrippa. See also Louis Dimier, *Le portrait du XVIe siècle aux primitifs français: notes et corrections au catalogue officiel sur cette partie de l'exposition d'avril–juillet 1904* (Paris, 1904), 106–109; Jean Adhémar, "The Collection of Paintings of Francis I," *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, ser. 6, 30 (July 1946): 14–16.
- [33] Irene Adler, "Die Clouet: Versuch einer Stilkritik," Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen in Wien, N.F. 3 (1929): 230, 232–233, is probably the first to make these observations, which recur with modifications in such authors as Anthony Blunt, Art and Architecture in France: 1500 to 1700 (London, 1953), 69–70; Sylvie Béguin, L'école de Fontainebleau: le maniérisme à la cour de France (Paris, 1960), 94–95; Albert Châtelet and Jacques Thuillier, French Painting from Fouquet to Poussin (Geneva, 1963), 129–130.
- [34] As pointed out by Cecil Gould, *The Sixteenth-Century Italian Schools: National Gallery Catalogues* (London, 1975), 41–44, it is not clear whether the London painting or another version belonged to François I. Many authors have noted the probable influence of Bronzino and Francesco Salviati (who was in France c. 1555), especially upon Clouet's portraiture.
- [35] These paintings have been discussed and reproduced individually and collectively on several occasions. See Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, *L'école de Fontainebleau*, entries by Sylvie Béguin (Paris, 1972), 215–219, nos. 243–245; Florence Delay, *Les dames de Fontainebleau*, entry by Sylvie Béguin (Milan, 1987), 188–189, repro. 19, 21, 22; Jean Jacques Lévêque, *L'école de Fontainebleau* (Neuchâtel, 1984), 152–157. An excellent study of the Dijon painting that includes discussion of the Basel and

Worcester pictures is in Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, *La Dame à sa toilette* (Dijon, 1988), 6–19.

- [36] This idea seems to have first been put forward by Charles Sterling in Rijksmuseum, Le triomphe du maniérisme européen de Michel-Ange au Greco, entries by Charles Sterling (Amsterdam, 1955), 57. He found the version in the Worcester Art Museum the most faithful replica of Clouet's lost original.
- [37] In her catalog entries on the Worcester, Dijon, and Basel paintings, Sylvie Béguin, in Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, *L'école de Fontainebleau* (Paris, 1972), 215–219, seemed to suggest a date around 1585/1590.
 Marguerite Guillaume, in Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, *La Dame à sa toilette* (Dijon, 1988), 4, 18–19, suggests a date of c. 1560 for the Dijon painting.
- [38] Irene Adler, "Die Clouet: Versuch einer Stilkritik," Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen in Wien, N.F. 3 (1929): 216, 217–219, 224–226, 233–234; André de Hevesy, "L'histoire véridique de la Joconde," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 6, 40 (July 1952): 18–19; Anthony Blunt, Art and Architecture in France: 1500 to 1700 (London, 1953), 69–70; Charles Sterling, A Catalogue of French Paintings: A Catalogue of the Collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Cambridge, MA, 1955–1967), 1:54; Albert Châtelet and Jacques Thuillier, French Painting from Fouquet to Poussin (Geneva, 1963), 129–130.
- [39] Charles D. Cuttler, Northern Painting from Pucelle to Bruegel: Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Centuries (New York, 1968), 466.
- [40] References to the extensive literature on the subject are also found in Elizabeth Cropper, "On Beautiful Women, Parmigianino, *Petrarchismo*, and the Vernacular Style," *Art Bulletin* 58 (Sept. 1976): 374–394; Elizabeth Cropper, "The Beauty of Woman: Problems in the Rhetoric of Renaissance Portraiture," in *Rewriting the Renaissance: The Discourses of Sexual Difference in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Margaret W. Ferguson, Maureen Quilligan, and Nancy J. Vickers (Chicago, 1986), 175–190; Elise Goodman-Soellner, "Poetic Interpretations of the 'Lady at Her Toilette' Theme in Sixteenth-Century Painting," *Sixteenth-Century Journal* 14, no. 4 (Winter 1983): 426–442; and Anne B. Barriault, "The Abundant, Beautiful, Chaste, and Wise: Domestic Painting of the Italian Renaissance in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts," *Arts in Virginia* 30, no. 1 (1991): 16–21.
- [41] Jillian Bradshaw and Dorothy M. Jones, "Luxury, Love and Charity: Four Paintings from the School of Fontainebleau," *Australian Journal of Art* 3 (1983): 43.
- [42] Hidemichi Tanaka, "Les deux Vénus au bain: une nouvelle analyse sur la 'Gabrielle d'Estrées et une de ses soeurs' du Louvre," Art History [Tohoku University, Japan] 1 (1978): 23–25.

- [43] The combination of water and eroticism is one of the topics in André Chastel's essay, "Fontainebleau, formes et symboles," in Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, *L'école de Fontainebleau* (Paris, 1972), xxi–xxiv. In his descriptions of life at the French court, Pierre de Bourdeille, seigneur de Brantôme (c. 1535–1614) reported frankly on the erotic activities of women in baths, which he contrasted to the proper behavior of the Swiss, even during mixed bathing; see *Oeuvres complètes de Pierre de Bourdeille, seigneur de Brantôme*, ed. Ludovic Lalanne, vol. 9, *Des dames* (Paris, 1876), 49–50, 299.
- [44] Jillian Bradshaw and Dorothy M. Jones, "Luxury, Love and Charity: Four Paintings from the School of Fontainebleau," *Australian Journal of Art* 3 (1983): 55–56.
- [45] Compare, for example, the comments in Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, La Dame à sa toilette (Dijon, 1988), 20–27, 41–46, nos. 2–6.
- [46] Margaret B. Freeman, The Unicorn Tapestries (New York, 1976), 42–54.
- [47] The apple is the traditional symbol of temptation and original sin, the grapes refer to the Eucharist, and cherries are associated with the delights of Paradise; Margaret B. Freeman, *The Unicorn Tapestries* (New York, 1976), 111–114, 136–138.
- [48] I am very grateful to National Gallery of Art horticulturalist Donald Hand and members of his staff for identifying the flowers and herbs.
- [49] As noted in Margaret B. Freeman, *The Unicorn Tapestries* (New York, 1976), 115–116, the sweet violet (*viola odorata*) is associated with the Virgin Mary in her humility and is often mentioned in love poetry. In the same vein, the rose bears both religious meaning, as the flower of martyrs, virgins, and Mary, and secular meaning, as an emblem of sensual pleasure and earthly love; see Freeman, *The Unicorn Tapestries*, 121–124.
- [50] Georges Duby and Philippe Braunstein, "The Emergence of the Individual," in A History of Private Life, ed. Philippe Ariès and Georges Duby, vol. 2, *Revelations of the Medieval World* (Cambridge, MA, 1988), 601, mention the addition of fragrant herbs to bath water. Both violets and roses were prized for their scent and also could have been added to the water. For the multiple meanings of juniper and rosemary (but not oregano), see Mirella Levi d'Ancona, *The Garden of the Renaissance: Botanical Symbolism in Italian Painting* (Florence, 1977), 197–199, 355–358.
- [51] Fernand Mercier, "La valeur symbolique de l'oeillet dans la peinture du Moyen-Âge," *Revue de l'Art* 71 (Jan. 1937): 233–236.
- [52] James Snyder, Northern Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, The Graphic Arts from 1350 to 1575 (Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1985), 519.
- [53] Margaret B. Freeman, *The Unicorn Tapestries* (New York, 1976), 148; Ingrar Bergström, *Den symboliska nejlikan i senmedeltidens och renässansens*

konst (Malmö, 1958), esp. 15-86.

- [54] Colin Eisler, Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian (Oxford, 1977), 255.
- [55] Transferred to fabric, 155 × 103 cm, Peintures célèbres du Musée Condé (Chantilly, 1979), 19, repro. See also Ann Plogsterth, "The Institution of the Royal Mistress and the Iconography of Nude Portraiture in Sixteenth-Century France" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1991), 274–277, no. E.9.
- [56] Inv. no. 1582, fabric, 100 × 86.5 cm, photograph in NGA curatorial files. See also Ann Plogsterth, "The Institution of the Royal Mistress and the Iconography of Nude Portraiture in Sixteenth-Century France" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1991), 268, no. E.2.
- [57] Wood, 92.5 × 69.5 cm, sale, Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co., London, December 15, 1982, no. 45.
- [58] 90 × 80 cm, color postcard in NGA curatorial files. Ann Plogsterth, "The Institution of the Royal Mistress and the Iconography of Nude Portraiture in Sixteenth-Century France" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1991), 269–271, nos. E.3–E.4 as a copy of a painting from Chenonceaux, now lost.
- [59] Photograph in NGA curatorial files and NGA photographic archives.
- [60] Inv. no. 1983–20, fabric, 90 × 120 cm, color reproduction in NGA curatorial files. I am grateful to Mme Durey for enabling me to examine the painting at a time when the museum was closed for renovation (June 14, 1993).
- [61] Photograph in the Frick Art Reference Library, New York (no. 524–6/b); 71.2 × 55.9 cm, formerly in the collection of Lewis Fry, sale, Christie's, London, March 31, 1922, no. 40; possibly the same painting in the collection of Oliver Brown, London, mentioned in Reginald H. Wilenski, *French Painting* (Boston, 1936), 30, n. 1. See Ann Plogsterth, "The Institution of the Royal Mistress and the Iconography of Nude Portraiture in Sixteenth-Century France" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1991), 279–281, nos. E.13, E.15, E.16.
- [62] Sale, Versailles, Hôtel Rameau, June 7–8, 1967, no. 211; parchment, 39.5 ×
 30 cm. See Ann Plogsterth, "The Institution of the Royal Mistress and the Iconography of Nude Portraiture in Sixteenth-Century France" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1991), 280, no. E.14.

PROVENANCE

Sir Richard Frederick, 6th bt. [1780-1873], Burwood Park, Walton-on-Thames, Surry; (his estate sale, Christie, Manson & Woods, London, 7 February 1874, no. 83, as *Portrait of Diane de Poictiers[sic]* by Fr. Janetii); purchased by Thibeaudeau,[1]

presumably acting as agent for Sir John Charles Robinson [1824-1913], London; purchased 1874 by Sir Francis Cook, 1st bt. [1817-1901], Doughty House, Richmond, Surrey;[2] by inheritance to his son, Sir Frederick Lucas Cook, 2nd bt. [1844-1920], Doughty House; by inheritance to his son, Herbert Frederick Cook, 3rd bt. [1868-1939], Doughty House; by inheritance to his son, Sir Francis Ferdinand Maurice Cook, 4th bt. [1907-1978], Doughty House, and Cothay Manor, Somerset; sold July 1954 to (Margaret Drey, London);[3] (Rosenberg and Stiebel, New York);[4] purchased May 1955 by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York;[5] gift 1961 to NGA.

[1] Annotation accompanying the copy of the catalogue in the archives of Christie, Manson & Woods, London.

[2] Maurice Brockwell, *Catalogue of the Pictures at Doughty House, Richmond, and Elsewhere in the Collection of Sir Frederick Cook, Bt.*, 3 vols., London, 1913-1915: 3:no. 426, states that the painting was purchased from J. Charles Robinson in 1874 for 350 pounds. An annotation, probably by Brockwell, in a copy of the 1915 Cook collection catalogue belonging to Brenda, Lady Cook (St. Brelade, Jersey, England), reads: "Bought from or per JCR 11/2/1874." Lady Cook kindly showed this annotation to Elon Danziger, assistant in the department of northern Renaissance painting, in 2001. Brockwell 1932, vi, observes that Robinson, who had been Surveyor of the Pictures for Queen Victoria, often advised Cook on purchases. In this instance he may have acted as agent.

[3] Correspondence from the Cook Collection Archive, in care of John Somerville, England, copies in NGA curatorial file.

[4] Saemy Rosenberg, letter to William Suida, 11 May 1955, in NGA curatorial files.

[5] The record of the agreement to purchase the painting is in the Kress
 Foundation files, dated 9 May 1955 (see copy in NGA curatorial files and The Kress
 Collection Digital Archive, https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/53).

EXHIBITION HISTORY

1894 Fair Women [Summer Exhibition], Grafton Galleries, London, 1894, no. 20, as Portrait of Diane de Poitiers, Duchesse de Valentinois.

1904 Exposition des primitifs français, Palais du Louvre and Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, 1904, no. 226, as Portrait d'une dame au bain by François Quesnel?

1911 Exhibition of Old Masters in Aid of the National Art Collections Fund, Grafton Galleries, London, 1911, no. 85, repro. as Portrait of Diane de Poitiers.

1932 Exhibition of French Art 1200-1900, Royal Academy of Arts, London, 1932, no. 53, repro., as Dame au Bain.

1933 Commemorative Catalogue of the Exhibition of French Art, 1200 – 1900. (Exh. cat. Royal Academy of Arts.) London, 1933: 15-16, no. 49, pl. 21.

1944 Masterpieces from the Cook Collection, Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, 1944-1945, no. 426, repro., as Portrait of Diane de Poitiers.

1947 Loan for display with permanent collection, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Univerity of Cambridge, England, 1947-1954.

1955 Le triomphe du maniérisme européen de Michel-Ange au Greco. Entries by Charles Sterling. (Exh. cat. Rijksmuseum.) Amsterdam, 1955: 57, no. 34, 67, no. 52.

1965 Le xvi e siècle européen. Peintures et dessins dans les collections publiques françaises. Entries by Sylvie Béguin. (Exh. cat. Petit Palais.) Paris, 1965: 59, 61, no. 74, 277, no. 338.

1972 L' école de Fontainebleau. Entries by Sylvie Béguin. (Exh. cat. Galeries nationales du Grand Palais.) Paris, 1972: 54, no. 54, 214, no. 242, 215, no. 243, 220, no. 246.

1973 Fontainebleau. Art in France 1528 – 1610. (Exh. cat. National Gallery of Canada.) Ottawa, 1973: 2:39.

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2019 La Joconde nue = The Nude Mona Lisa, Musée Condé, Chantilly, 2019.

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