

Caylus



ZACARÍAS GONZÁLEZ VELÁZQUEZ
(Madrid, 1763-1834)

The Pentecost

1795

Oil on canvas

43.3 x 76.5 cm

PROVENANCE:

Private collection, Madrid

RELATED LITERATURE:

NÚÑEZ, B. *Zacarías González Velázquez (1763-1834)*. Madrid: Fundación Arte Hispánico, 2000.

Zacarías González Velázquez was a court painter and an academician of the Real Academia Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid, of which he became director of painting and subsequently director general. He first trained with Mariano Salvador Maella and at the Academia (of which his father, Antonio González Velázquez, was director) where he was awarded prizes in 1778 and 1781.

As a decorative painter González Velázquez is notable for his fresco schemes for various royal residences, including the palace of El Pardo and the Casa del Labrador in Aranjuez, comprising allegorical and mythological compositions. The artist also produced religious works for private clients and religious institutions, including the cathedrals in Jaén and Toledo and the Oratory of the Caballero de Gracia in Madrid, and collaborated on the design of decorations for the funeral rites of Queen María Amalia of Saxony. Also worthy of note is his work for the Royal Santa Barbara Tapestry Manufactory, for which he produced cartoons based on preliminary designs by Mariano Salvador Maella for tapestries on marine subjects, demonstrating a mastery of composition and gift for colour while continuing as well as an ongoing adherence to his initial academic training.

González Velázquez's output can be located in the transition from the Baroque to Neoclassicism. His earliest work reveals a predominance of line over colour while in his late paintings colour becomes richer and more important, accompanied by an attention to fine detail in the treatment of fabrics and accessory elements, an evolution that is still more evident in his portraits.

The *Pentecost* is the presentation sketch for the big altarpiece painting in the chapel of the Hospital General Juan Cardona at El Ferrol, signed by González Velázquez in 1795 (oil on

canvas, 430 x 223 cm; see NÚÑEZ 2000, cat. P-51, pp. 179-180). The work was commissioned by José Quindós y Pardo, Marquis of San Saturnino.