

Caylus



LORENZO PASINELLI
(Bologna, 1629-1700)

Allegory of Peace and Justice

Ca. 1661-1665

Oil on canvas

85 × 99 cm

PROVENANCE:

Private collection, Italy.

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Born in Bologna in 1629, Pasinelli was a pupil of Simone Cantarini. Following the death of his master in 1648 he entered the studio of Flaminio Torri where he assimilated Reni's late style, to which Cantarini was notably indebted in many respects. In 1661 a period in Mantua working in the Gonzaga family's Marmirolo palace allowed Pasinelli to fully develop his style. He was active in Turin between 1662 and 1663 and soon after left for Rome.

Little is known of the artist's activities during those years. However, a painting of *Esther fainting*, now in a private collection and datable to 1665 on the basis of an engraving after it, reveals the harmonious balance which he achieved in his art, combining the calm solemnity of Roman classicism and a beautiful Neo-Venetian colour possibly assimilated in that city in a trip of 1663 referred to by early sources but not recorded in any known documentation. In 1672 the artist established his reputation in Bologna following the departure for Rome of Domenico Maria Canuti, who left Pasinelli in charge of his studio and pupils. He thus became one of the city's most important painters together with Carlo Cignani. In his final phase Pasinelli's output, most of which takes the form of easel paintings, achieved an idyllic mood and atmosphere that paved the way for 18th-century Bolognese painting. Among his most important works are undoubtedly *Judith and Holofernes* in the Bosdari collection, *Mary Magdalene* in the

Liechtenstein Gallery in Vienna, and *The Martyrdom of Saint Ursula* in the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna.

The present *Allegory of Peace and Justice* can be dated between 1661 and 1665. Another version was previously in the collection of August Ohm (fig.1). The iconography is based on verses from Psalm 85: “Near indeed is his salvation for those who fear him; glory will dwell in our land. / Love and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss”, a phrase literally conveyed in visual terms by Pasinelli, who shows Divine Love in the act of kissing.

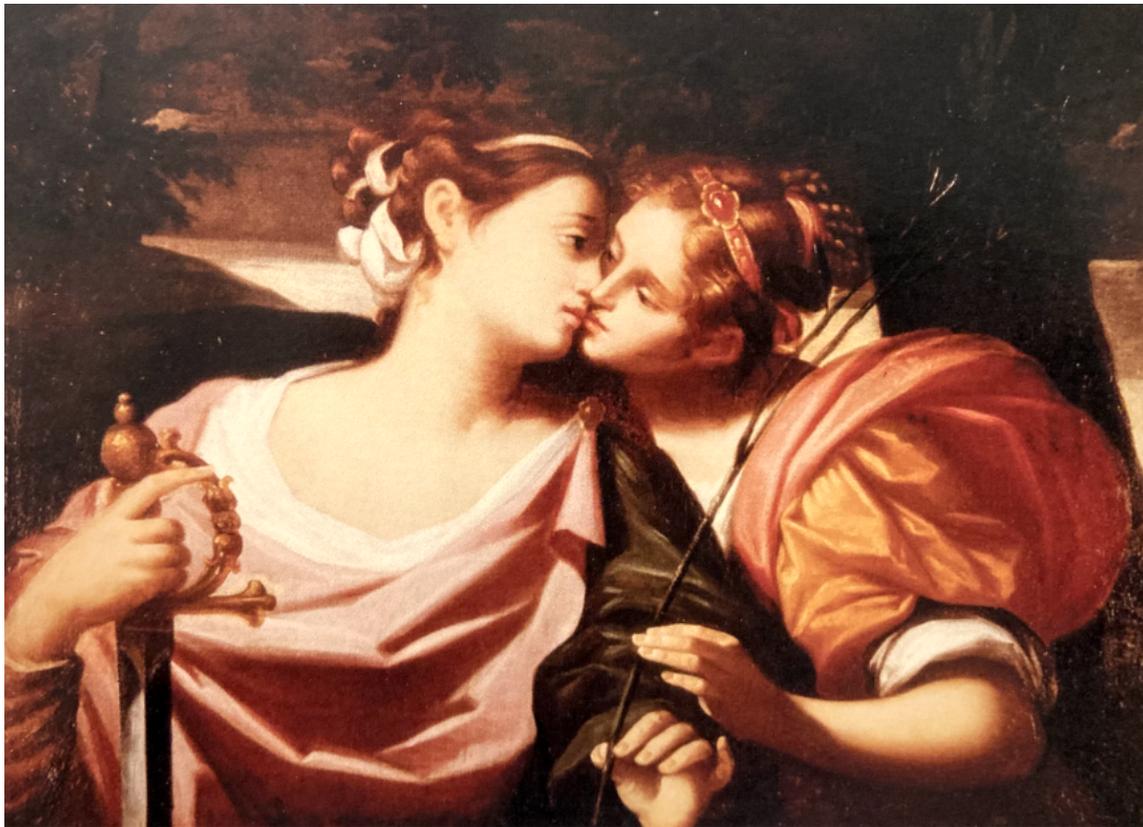


Fig. 1. Lorenzo Pasinelli, *Allegory of Peace and Justice*, ca. 1661-65. Oil on canvas, 95 x 121 cm. Hamburg, August Ohm collection