

ABEGG-STIFTUNG

Media release, September 2016



**ON SHOW AT THE ABEGG-STIFTUNG
FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY:**

EMBROIDERED RETABLE FROM CHICAGO

**22 SEPTEMBER TO 13 NOVEMBER 2016
OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.**

From 22 September to 13 November 2016, the Abegg-Stiftung will be exhibiting a unique embroidered altarpiece dating from the fifteenth century. Measuring 2.5 x 2 m, this magnificent work of art belongs to the Art Institute of Chicago and was entrusted to the Abegg-Stiftung for conservation/restoration. Now that the Abegg-Stiftung's textile conservation studio has completed its thorough analysis and careful conservation of the piece, the retable can be marvelled at in Riggisberg for a few weeks, pending its return to Chicago.

The extremely fine, masterfully done embroidery is a luxury variant of the painted or carved retable. The silk, linen, silver and gold threads, sequins and seed pearls conspire to create an impression of splendour and artistic expressiveness that are beyond compare. Such a masterpiece would have been valued even more highly than a painting by a famous painter in the Middle Ages.

The altarpiece was made in Spain in 1468 at the behest of Pedro de Montoya, then Bishop of Burgo de Osma, whose coat of arms features in several places. The retable shows scenes from the life of Christ framed inside architectural elements, embroidered to create relief effects. The matching predella, which is also embroidered, shows the Resurrection of Christ, six Apostles and angels. The ensemble in its entirety is unparalleled – in quality, size and state of preservation.

Both press release and photo are available as e-mail attachments.

Caption

Embroidered Retable with Predella, 18 x 12 cm detail from the scene with the Adoration of the Magi; Spain, c. 1468; embroidery with silk, linen and metallic threads, sequins and seed pearls; 254 x 213 cm. The Art Institute of Chicago, gift of Mrs. Chauncey McCormick and Mrs. Richard Ely Danielson, 1927.1779a-b