

ACM WONDERS

Suitable for ages 13 and up

ACM

Archangel Michael Vanquishing Satan

Made of painted wood in
Northern Vietnam

Background Information

In this sculpture, the archangel Michael stands in victory over Satan. The Book of Revelation in the Bible describes the archangel Michael as the commander of God's army against Satan's forces.

In Christian art, Michael is often depicted as an ancient Roman soldier. This can be seen from his attire, which consists of a tunic, helmet, and breastplate. His left hand probably held a spear, while his outstretched right hand may have held a scale balance, though both are missing from the sculpture today.

The sculpture may have once decorated a church in Vietnam. Catholic missionaries from Europe arrived in Vietnam from the 17th century, leading to more Christian converts and churches. Painted figures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and various saints often adorned these churches. While some were imported from Europe, many figures like this one were made by local artists.



Archangel Michael Vanquishing Satan
Northern Vietnam, 19th century
Painted wood, iron, glass
2011-01483

LET'S DISCOVER

Learn about this striking sculpture in our Christian Art Gallery.

FUN FACT

Similar depictions of the archangel Michael can be found in St Joseph's Church in Hanoi and Notre Dame Cathedral in Ho Chi Minh City.

GLOSSARY

Archangel (from Greek, literally "chief angel") is a term used in the Bible to indicate seniority over other angels.

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LET'S LOOK CLOSELY

Use these guidelines to discover details about the object.

1. **EXAMINE** the sculpture closely. Although primarily made of wood, it also has parts made from iron and glass. Can you guess which parts of the sculpture were made from these materials? Why would the artist have chosen to use more than one material?
2. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST** the figures of the archangel and Satan. How has the artist portrayed each of them? Why do you think they are depicted in these ways?
3. **THINK** about how sculptures and images like this were used to decorate churches. What purpose would they serve there? Take a walk through the Christian Art Gallery and think further about the meanings behind the creation of each artwork.

CREATE AT HOME

Continue the experience at home by doing this activity. Don't forget to tag us at [@ACM_SG](https://www.instagram.com/ACM_SG) to share your work with us.

4. Use your imagination. **CREATE** a piece of artwork illustrating the battle between good and evil. What images and symbols would you use? Take inspiration from this sculpture, or **RESEARCH** other artworks that portray the fight between good and evil.



Let us know what you think about our ACM Wonders activity cards through a survey here.