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Bellini/Mantegna

Masterpieces Face to Face: The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

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- Fascinating insight into two of the giants in the history of Western art
- The exhibition *Mantegna and Bellini* runs at the National Gallery, London, from 1 October, 2018 to 27 January 2019

Giovanni Bellini, 'one of the great Italian poets' in the words of Roberto Longhi, and Andrea Mantegna, he who 'sculpted [the image] alive and real in his painting' in the sonnet by Ulisse degli Aleotti, were two giants in the history of Western art – extremely distant in character, certainly, yet connected by deep family ties. Nicolosia – Jacopo Bellini's daughter and thus half-sister to Giovanni – married Mantegna in 1453. This marriage engendered one of the most fascinating pictorial dialogues of the Quattrocento, as they both developed the motif of *The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple*. Now we see this pair of works exhibited side-by-side for the very first time, half a millennium after they were painted. This volume narrates an extraordinary event, down to the last detail, through a riveting analysis of the paintings themselves and of the relationship between the two artists.





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