

ATTRIBUTED TO JOHANN KÖNIG

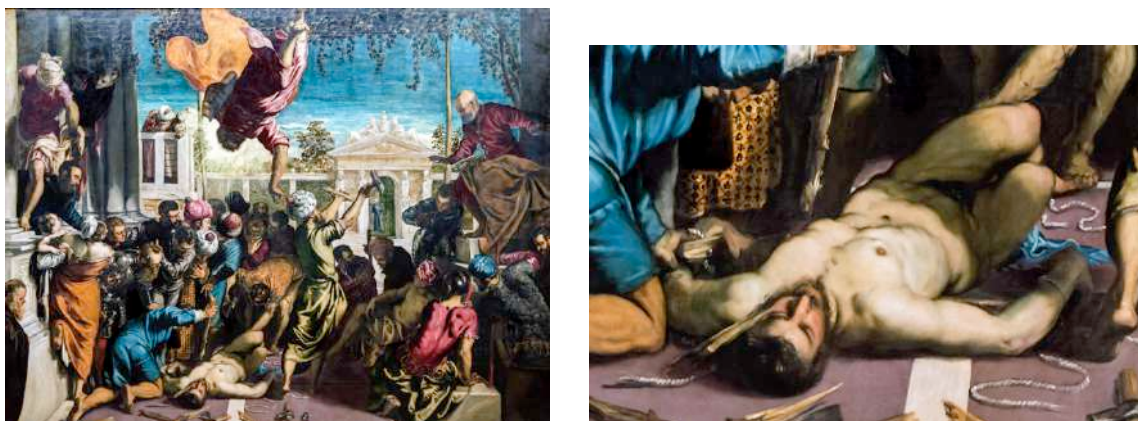
(Nuremberg, 1586 – Augsburg, 1642)

The Deluge

Oil on copper, oval, 18,5 x 23,8 cm, 7¹/₄ x 9³/₈ in



The figure in the foreground is taken from the *Miracle of the slave* by Tintoretto, now in the Gallerie dell'Accademia in the Venice (see figs. 1,2).



Figs.1,2: Jacopo Tintoretto, *The Miracle of the Slave*, Venice, Gallerie dell'Accademia, with detail

We are grateful to Dr. Joachim Jacoby for pointing out that the left-hand side of the composition derives from a print after a drawing by Salviati now in the Ashmolean museum, Oxford (see figs. 3,4-5,6).



Figs. 3,4: After Francesco Salviati, *Apollo and Diana slaughtering the children of Niobe*, 1541, Engraving



Figs. 5,6: Francesco Salviati, *Apollo and Diana slaughtering the children of Niobe*, Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, with detail

We are grateful to Dr. Joshua Waterman for suggesting the name of Johann König.
The figure in the foreground, taken from Tintoretto, returns more than once in König's compositions. See for example *The Drunkness of Noah* in Berlin (figs. 7,8) or *The Brazen Serpent* in Copenhagen (figs. 9-10)



Figs. 7,8: Johann König, *The Drunkness of Noah*, copper, 17,8 x 27,4 cm, Berlin, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Gemäldegalerie, with detail



Figs. 9,10: Johann König, *The Brazen Serpent*, oil on copper, 54 x 76 cm, Copenhagen, Statens Museum for Kunst, with detail

As Dr. Joachim Jacoby points out, it was common for Northern artists active in Italy circa 1600, like König, to transpose famous compositions on precious supports, like copper.

Johann König sojourned in Venice from 1606/7 onwards, where he copied many Venetian famous compositions. He painted a miniature copy of Veronese's *Wedding at Cana*, while a drawing, copy of *The Circumcision of Christ*, after Tintoretto's fresco in San Rocco is in the British Museum, London.

König is recorded to have sojourned in Rome between 1610 and 1613. In 1614 he returned to his native town, Augsburg. König was considered the most prominent painter of miniatures in Southern Germany besides Hans Rottenhammer.



Fig. 10: Johann König, *Apollo and Diana slaughtering the children of Niobe*, 79,5 x 97, Sotheby's, London, 10 April 2003, lot 33