The relationship between the sketch and the work of the Carro di San Rocco of Pietro Consagra

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The present study analyses the relation between an artwork by Pietro Consagra and its maquette on the basis of the latter’s restoration. Consagra’s work, currently displayed in the open air, is a procession float dedicated to Saint Roch, made in 1983. The materials used are iron plate for the framework, and cloth for the sails and pinwheel, both painted according to the artist’s original idea (involving wood, canvas and wire painted in acrylics and vinyl-acrylic). The restoration was preceded by an historical-artistic study based on period photographs and relevant interviews. The maquette was in bad condition, with the painted surface altered by grime and foxing, as well as flaking off the textile support; besides, some elements in the pinwheel had desoldered. The maquette was cleaned with water media and strengthened with nanoparticles of acrylic resin; the movement of the pinwheel; the missing paint was reintegrated with water colour. The intervention was preceded and accompanied by colorimetric analysis, XRF and FTIR. Thus it was possible to restore the original appearance of both colors and movements, and plan a future conservative intervention on Consagra’s float.

References