



Work of a Filipino workshop

Ivory Crucifix

First half of the 18th century

Ivory: 66.5 × 64 cm

Marble cross: 111.5 × 67.5 cm

This magnificent sculpture of the crucifixion is carved from ivory. Although Christ has been affixed to the cross with three nails, his pose is serene, with his arms extended and his body slightly inclined towards the right. The expression on his face is one of both pain and serenity, with his mouth half-open and his eyes half-closed. He does not appear to be in extreme agony. The carving stands out in particular for the elegant curve of the figure's body, which highlights his neck and abdomen, and for the exquisite detailing of his hands and feet.

The sculpture is in the **Hispano-Filipino style** and was produced in Manila during the first half of the eighteenth century. Of particular note are the delicacy of the carving and the exceptional quality of the ivory used for the figure of Jesus Christ; it stands out starkly against the black marble cross, which is probably of a later date. The piece was made by **Sangley or mestizo artists** of Chinese origin, and is characteristic of the Hispano-Filipino approach: the sculpture is highly refined, with a skilfully depicted anatomy, and there is exceptional attention to detail in Christ's loincloth and crown of thorns.

This is **one of the finest ivory crucifixes from Manila that can be found in Spain**, and an excellent example of the fusion of the European artistic tradition and the exceptional craftsmanship of the Philippines. Its presence at **Covadonga** underlines the importance of the artistic and cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe that took place during the period of the Viceroyalty.