

# EL GRECO'S 'SAINT FRANCIS RECEIVING THE STIGMATA'

## DISCOVERY OF HIDDEN DETAILS BY INFRARED REFLECTOGRAPHY



Infrared Reflectography (IRR), widely used for painting analysis allowed APAC Labs to make a number of important discoveries on a panel painting attributed to El Greco: 'Saint Francis receiving the Stigmata'. Preparatory drawings in the areas of St. Francis' face, his garments and his hands reveal the artist's graphic techniques. Alterations in the area of St. Francis' right hand likely indicate the revisions made during the painting process by El Greco rather than later overpainting.

Using IRR, we detected hidden mountains initially intended to be present in the background, instead of the cloud-filled sky seen in the final version of the painting. Finally, the IRR analysis allowed us to discover a Greek inscription below the proper left hand of Saint Francis- Χειρ Δομηνίκου - By the hand of Demenikos. This finding played a crucial role in the attribution of the painting to El Greco and not to his school as previously assumed.

