

THE PAINTINGS OF THE SEE OF EGARA

One of the most exceptional elements of the See of Egara is the pictorial decoration that covers the apses of the churches of Santa Maria and Sant Miquel, as well as the mural altarpiece of the church of Sant Pere.

The conclusions of the latest technical reports by archaeologists, art historians, restorers and epigraphers suggest that the paintings in St Michael's and St Mary's are contemporary with their architectural support, so that the paintings would have been made at the height of the Episcopal See of Egara's splendour, between the 6th and 7th centuries.

Some of the iconographic elements depicted have strong points of contact with painting from the Mediterranean East (Syria, Palestine, Coptic Egypt), and the Terrassa paintings can therefore be considered a unique and exceptional testimony to the reception of the Byzantine pictorial tradition in the East. Given their links with Byzantine repertoires, the paintings of the Episcopal See of Egara are a fundamental document for understanding the artistic manifestations of Christian culture in the 6th century.

The mural altarpiece of St Peter's was discovered in 1895 during a major restoration campaign in the church. It is one of the most exceptional works in the world, particularly because of its design as a free-standing altarpiece on the apse wall, which was totally unusual for the medieval period.

