

MURAL MASTERPIECES

More than a hundred murals in different state of preservation have been uncovered so far inside the chambers of the Northwest and Southwest Annexes (Martens-Czarnecka 2011). Some of these murals are truly exceptional, from an iconographic, as well as artistic point of view. These wall paintings are dated to the Late Period in general (12th–13th century). Most of the paintings were

found in three functional complexes. Two of these have been identified as a church founded by Bishop Georgios and a chapel of the Archangel Michael founded most probably by a King's Mother, whose portrait in the protection of the Holy Trinity of the Makurite type was painted in the western part of the chapel.

The paintings from the Southwest Annex, including the exceptional genre scenes with extraordinary iconography that has not been recorded hitherto in Makuria outside the monastery on Kom H, are difficult to interpret as a whole and require broader iconographic studies. It would also help the interpretation, if the function of the annex in the monastic compound on Kom H could be established more precisely.

Christ healing a Blind Man at the Pool of Siloam, mural from the Northwest Annex



St Joseph, from a Nativity scene in the Northwest Annex





Archangel Gabriel with sword, mural above the entrance to the Southwest Annex



Virgin Galaktotrophousa spinning yarn, mural from the Southwest Annex



Virgin Mary in local dress, painting from the Southwest Annex



Dance scene with men dressed in local attire, some in cowry-studded masks and playing instruments, genre painting from the Southwest Annex

Baptism of Christ,
mural from the Northwest Annex



Makurian Holy Trinity with Four Living Creatures,
mural from the Northwest Annex



Scene of transaction, perhaps selling a slave(?), genre painting from the Southwest Annex