

The Provider of Models

Antoine Caron was very successful with his contemporaries. He worked with many colleagues, to whom he supplied designs to be transcribed into a different techniques. The sequence around the *Delivery of the Book and the Sword* shows the variety of supports in which it was circulated over more than forty years. This very long chronology also ensured the popularity of Caron's imaginative works, even after his death.

We do not know whether he had a workshop, or trained apprentices nor if he had assistants that he could have hired during busy periods such as the festivities of the reign. But his art was so popular that his style was repeated, both visually and technically, by painters gravitating around him.

These followers reused Caron's inventions, contributing to their circulation far beyond the Court. The favour he enjoyed with the Valois monarchs also doubtless explains why so many artists were interested in his work.