**Strong had gallery lose ‘horrible’ bit of history**

The More: A Very Brief History, 1535–1558, exhibition at the National Gallery in London, which opened in May, has been the subject of controversy. The exhibition features a painting of King Philip II of Spain, who was responsible for the Spanish Inquisition and the suppression of Catholicism in the 16th century. The painting, which was commissioned by Philip II in 1528, was restored in 1972 by the art historian John Guy, who worked with the National Gallery’s conservation team.

However, during the restoration process, Guy was asked by the gallery’s curator to remove the Catholic arms on the painting. Guy, who is a former director of the National Gallery, said that he had been asked to remove the arms because they were considered offensive to some visitors. He said that he had removed them because the gallery wanted to present a more neutral and inclusive viewpoint.

Guy’s decision has been met with criticism by some historians, who argue that it is important to show the full history of the Catholic Church. Some have called for the restoration to be reversed, while others have praised Guy for his work.

Guy has said that he is proud of his work and that he is committed to presenting a balanced and accurate view of history. He has also defended his decision to remove the arms, saying that it was in line with the gallery’s policy of presenting a diverse range of perspectives.

The controversy surrounding the More: A Very Brief History exhibition highlights the challenge of presenting a balanced and accurate view of history in a world where many people have different views on what constitutes good and bad history. It also raises questions about the role of art historians in the restoration process and the need to consider the wider context in which historical events take place.