



The Annunciation

Date

c.1410

Primary Maker

Niccolò Di Pietro

Medium

Oil and egg tempera on a wooden panel

Description

Oil and egg tempera painting on wooden panel executed during the early 1400s. It is likely that the painting depicts a scene of the Annunciation, the moment of conception where the Virgin Mary receives the unborn Christ into her womb. The image of the Virgin with her hands raised in the prayer position (known as "orans") and with her palms bared is often referred to as "Our Lady of the Sign", a recurring icon within early Christian imagery and narrative. The Virgin is seen with an open book in her lap

and her two hands raised in prayer. She has a golden halo and wears an identifiable blue garment. Running long her sleeves and on a pendant are a series of beads standing proud of the painted surface. For many years, little was known about this painting but it has recently been identified by the National Gallery, London as painted by Niccolo di Pietro, an early Italian Renaissance artist (known between 1394 and 1440). The painting was previously mounted in a gilt frame with large leaf scrolls or arabesques on both sides, and with relief decoration.

Dimensions

Object/Work: 280 x 410 mm