

CREATE YOUR VERY OWN GARDEN

**The plants, flowers and animals in the paintings
at the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze**

Many works painted in tempera on wooden panel are exhibited in the rooms on the second floor of our museum. These works focus on religious subjects, and were painted between 1370 and 1430.

Some scenes are set in beautiful landscapes that recall the Tuscan hills, while others feature saints who can also be recognized by their iconographic attributes, objects often taken from nature.

On the following pages you will find some interesting details of animals, flowers and plants as well as their symbolic meanings. We invite you to look for any details you find useful and then, with whatever technique you prefer, create your own ideal garden.

You can share your artwork on our social media pages (Facebook [@galleriadellaccademia](#) and Instagram [@galleriaaccademiafirenze](#)) or send it to ga-afi.info@cultura.gov.it

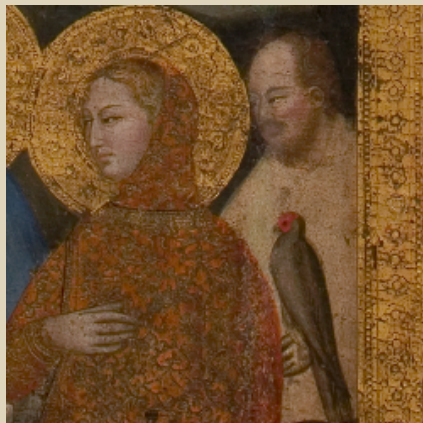
Now it's your turn. Have fun!



HAWK

In the Middle Ages, birds of prey were trained to hunt. This was a favourite pastime for the aristocrats.

Jacopo di Cione
Detail, *Adoration of the Magi*,
c. 1375 - c. 1385



PIG (CINTA SENESE)

St Anthony abbot's iconographic symbol is often shown at the feet of the saint.

Piero di Giovanni known as Lorenzo Monaco
Detail, *Annunciation, St Catherine of Alexandria and St Anthony Abbot, St Francis and St Proculus*, c. 1410 - c. 1415



DOVES

St Joseph offered doves to the Temple as a gift. In the *Annunciation*, the dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit.

Giovanni del Biondo
Detail, *Presentation of Jesus at the Temple*, 1364

ROOSTER

This allegory of rebirth is often found in paintings as a symbol for the Passion of Christ. When the rooster crows at dawn, it means that the night is over.

Piero di Giovanni known as Lorenzo Monaco
Detail, *Christ as the Man of Sorrows between the Virgin and St John the Evangelist and the Symbols of the Passion*, 1404



FLOCK

This is generally a symbol for the "people of God" and is associated with the Christological figure of the good shepherd.

Mariotto di Nardo
Detail, *Annunciation to Joachim and Birth of the Virgin; Dormitio Virginis; Presentation of the Virgin at the Temple and Marriage of the Virgin*, c. 1391



LILY

This flower is a symbol of beauty, purity, innocence and fragility, all in one. We generally find it in the episode of the *Annunciation*.

Rossello di Jacopo Franchi
Detail, *Madonna and Child Enthroned, Angels, St John the Baptist and St Francis, St John the Evangelist and Mary Magdalene*,
c. 1425 - c. 1430



DEER

This biblical animal represents agility, purity and beauty, and is also one of the iconographic symbols of St Eustace.

Bicci di Lorenzo
Detail, *Mystical Marriage of St Catherine, between St John the Baptist, St Eustace and St Anthony Abbot*,
c. 1423 - c. 1425



ROSE

This flower is a symbol of love, devotion and sacrifice, often associated with the figure of the Virgin Mary.

Andrea di Giusto Manzini
Detail, *Madonna of Humility with Child and Angels*, c. 1435



TREES

Apart from the implied reference to the Tuscan landscape, these trees evoke the concept of the biblical trees of Life and Knowledge.

Mariotto di Cristofano
Particolare, *Stories of the Life of Christ and the Virgin*, c. 1455



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