



GALLERIA
DELL'ACCADEMIA
DI FIRENZE

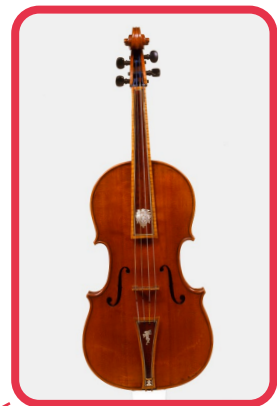
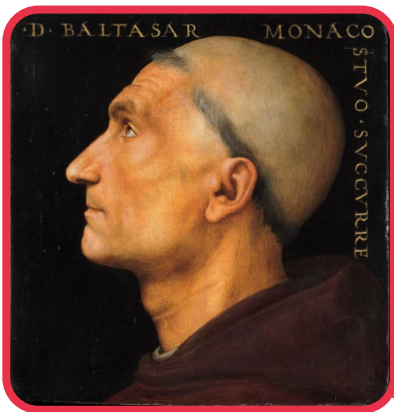
We are a group of friends and we have made
this guide to tell you about the Galleria
dell'Accademia di Firenze



The Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze is a museum.

Museums are places that display objects.

At the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze you can see lots of paintings, sculptures and musical instruments, some of which were made many centuries ago.



A long time ago, in 1784, the Grand Duke of Tuscany Pietro Leopoldo created the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze.

Originally, this museum was a place where students of the Academy of Fine Arts would meet to study and copy paintings and sculptures created by important artists.



That's why the museum is called the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze!

Lots of people visit the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze every day.



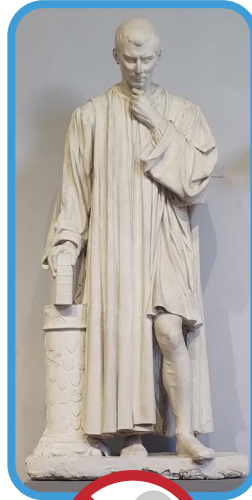
Inside the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze there are some rules that you will need to follow.

You must not touch:

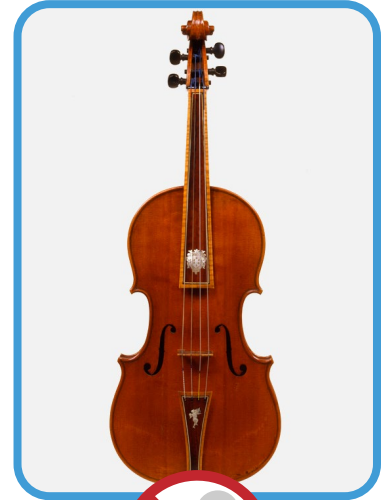
Paintings



Sculptures



Musical Instruments



You must not shout



You must not run



You must not eat



The Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze is in Florence.



The Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze has two entrances in 58, via Ricasoli.

- One entrance is for people who have booked a visit.
- The other entrance is for people who have not booked a visit.



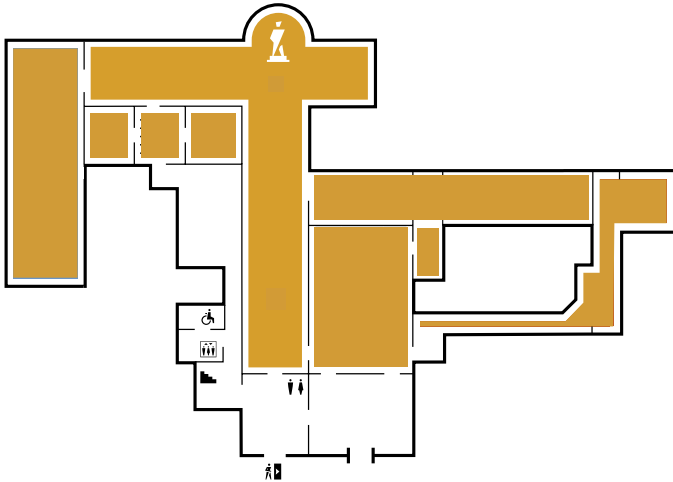
In front of both entrances you will probably see lots of people in a queue waiting to enter the museum.

There may also be lots of noise.

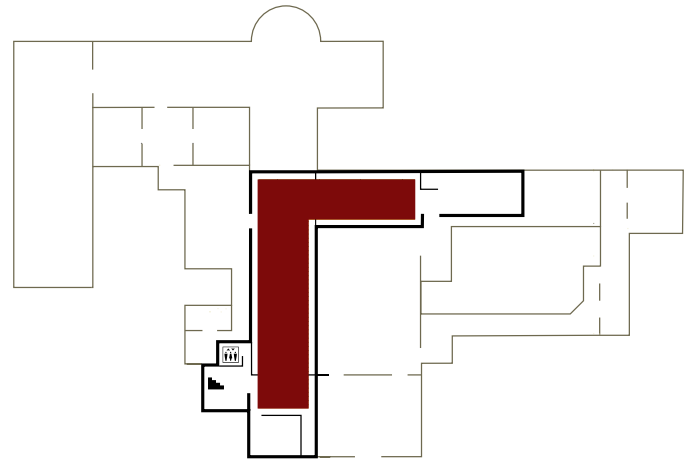


The museum has:

- a ground floor
- a first floor
- a lower ground floor, where the bathrooms are



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

When you enter the museum there is a metal detector.



Metal detectors are used to check bags and rucksacks

- These checks are very important for everyone's safety.
- Here are a few things that cannot be brought into the museum:



When you are in front of the metal detector:

- take one of the trays.
- put what you have in your pockets in the tray, like keys or a mobile phone, along with your bag or rucksack.
- place the tray on the belt.

The person that you see sitting in front of you will check the items you have put in the tray using a screen.



Now it's your turn to pass through the metal detector.



When the checks have been done:

- take your things back out of the tray.
- put the tray back.

Next, you'll come to the ticket desk.



At the ticket desk you can buy your ticket to visit the museum.
At the ticket desk you will find museum staff with a badge like this.



To the left of the ticket desk two people check the tickets.



Here you will need to show your entrance ticket.
Once you have shown your ticket you may go inside.



You will find at least one person with a museum badge in every room.
If you need help, just ask one of these people with a badge.



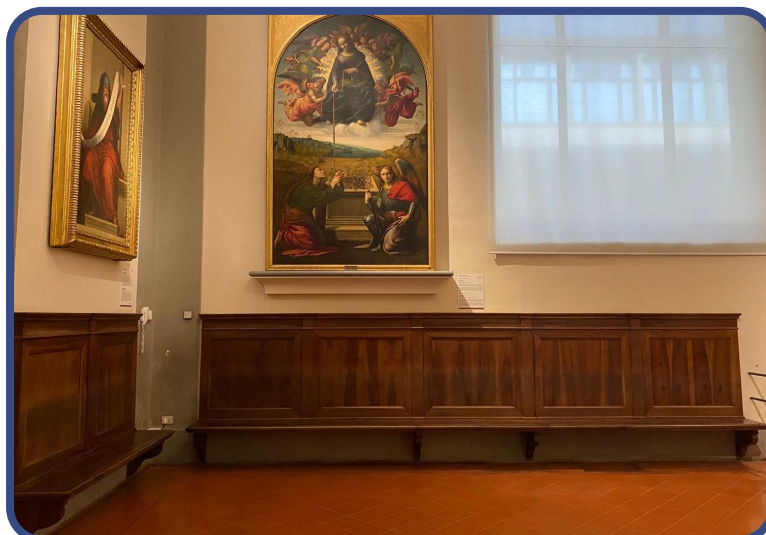
If you would like to ask something about one of the works of art you have seen, ask one of the people wearing a museum badge.

During your visit to the museum:

- you can look at all the objects on display, without touching them.



- if you need a rest or would like to sit down, you can use the benches you can see.



The first room you will enter is the Sala del Colosso (Colosso Hall). It might be very crowded.



In the middle of the room there is a large statue called Il ratto delle Sabine (The rape of the Sabines).



The rape of the Sabines represents an historical event linked to the origins of the ancient city of Rome.

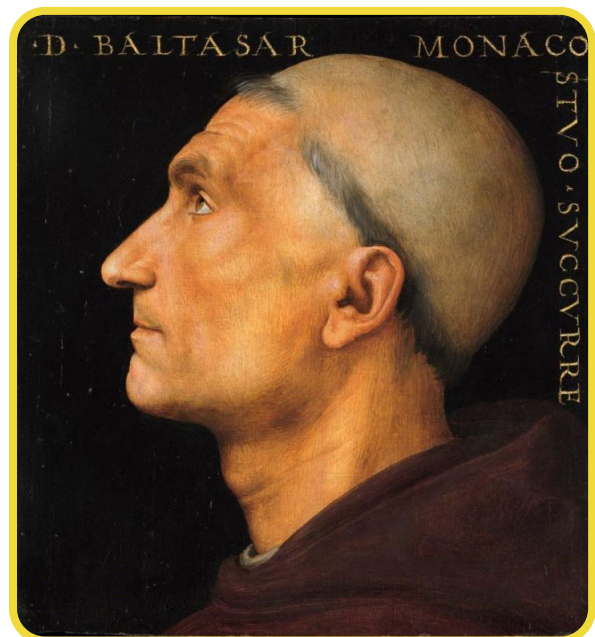
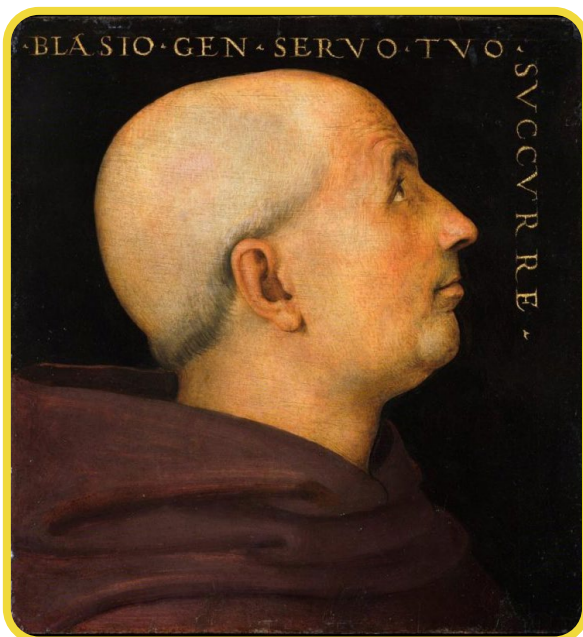
The artist who created this sculpture is called Giambologna.

In the Colosso Hall, near the large statue, is another important artwork called l'Assunzione della Vergine (The Assumption of the Virgin).



This painting represents one of the stories from a book called the Bible. In this story the Madonna (the Virgin Mary), mother of Jesus, is taken up to heaven by God when she dies. This moment is called the Assumption.

Below, you can see two men: they are both monks. They are called Biagio Milanesi and Baldassare.



The artist who painted this large painting is called Pietro Perugino. The monks Biagio Milanesi and Baldassare asked Pietro Perugino to paint this work.

In the second room of the museum you can see paintings made around the year 1400.



Among the paintings is the work of an artist who had a strange nickname. The artist's nickname was 'lo Scheggia'. His painting shows a wedding scene.



The guests are wearing elegant clothes decorated with precious fabrics. The ladies' hair and hats have been very carefully styled. The people in the painting are walking slowly and chatting to each other.

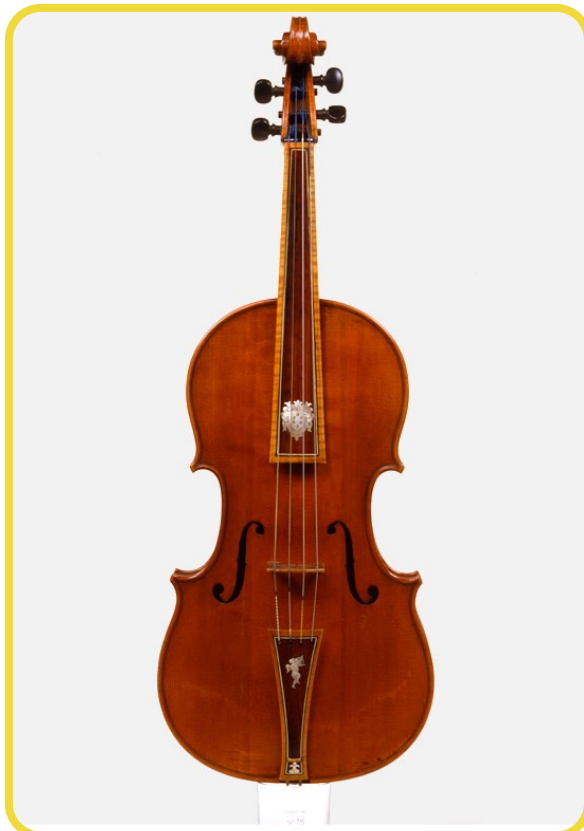


To continue the visit of the museum, you need to go back the way you came. Enter the room named Museo degli Strumenti Musicali (Musical Instruments Museum).



The first room of the Musical Instruments Museum is at the end of the corridor.

In this room you will find a very special instrument: a Tenor Viola. This Tenor Viola was made by Antonio Stradivari in 1690.



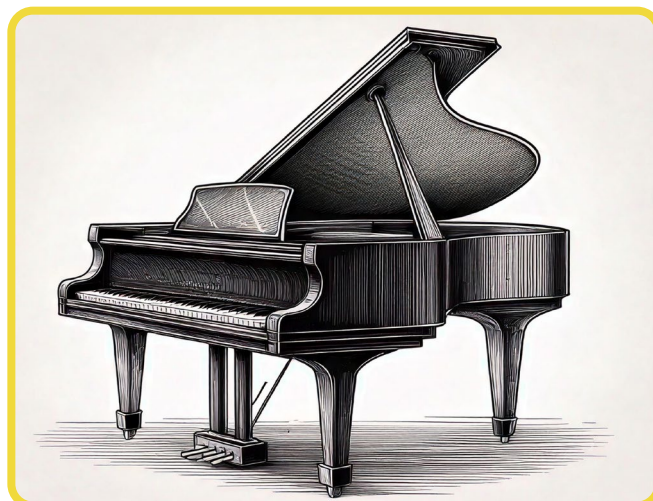
If you look at the painting hanging on the wall you will see that the musician dressed in green is playing the Tenor Viola.
The Tenor Viola has a very warm sound.
Musicians play the instrument by pulling a bow across the strings.



Continuing the tour, in the next room you will see a large instrument: a Harpsichord.



This Harpsichord was made by Bartolomeo Cristofori.
Cristofori also invented the Piano at the beginning of the 18th century.



Continue the visit by going to the next room, where you will see a very interesting instrument: the Serpentone.

The Serpentone is shaped like a big snake.

The Serpentone is made out of leather and chestnut wood.



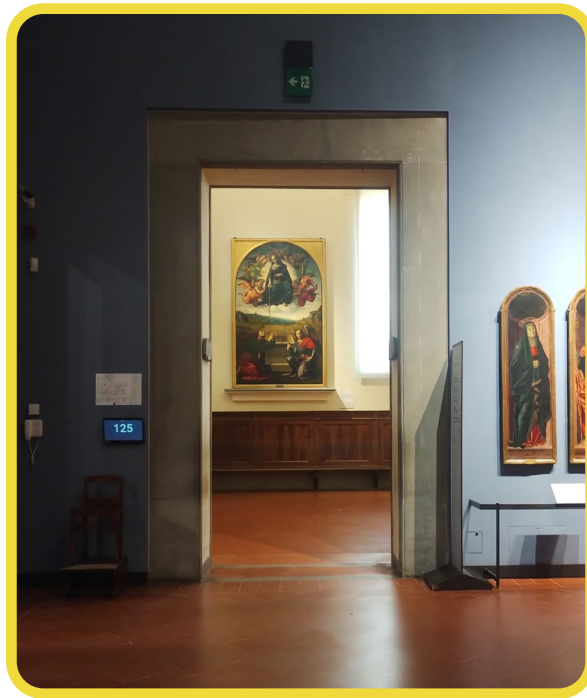
The Serpentone is a wind instrument.

To play the Serpentone the musician blows into the tube and moves their fingers along the outside of the instrument.

To continue the tour we now need to go through the door and into the corridor. Go all the way down the corridor to reach the Colosso Hall.



From the Colosso Hall you can reach the Prigioni's Gallery and the Tribuna del David (David's Grand Gallery).



You will probably see lots of other people in this part of the museum.

In the Prigioni's Gallery there are lots of statues.



The statues were created by Michelangelo Buonarroti, a very famous artist from the Renaissance.

The Renaissance is a period in history from around 1450 to 1600.

Each of the prisoners has a name based on their features.

One is called lo Schiavo barbuto (the Bearded Slave) because he has a big, curly beard.

Michelangelo shows this man holding his head with his arm.

You can see that the Bearded Slave is using a lot of strength in his body as his muscles are tense.



At the end of the Prigioni's Gallery you will see a very large statue called David.



The statue of David was made by Michelangelo Buonarroti.
The statue of David is the symbol of the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze.
The statue of David is over five metres tall and it is made out of marble.
David was a very brave and clever young man.
He managed to defeat a giant called Goliath by throwing a single stone at him.
Michelangelo shows David preparing to attack his enemy, the giant.

Sometimes, throughout the year, the wooden door will be open.
If the wooden door is open there are some artworks on display.
When the wooden door is open you can:

- go inside.
- look at the works of art on display.



At the end of the Prigioni's Gallery, near the statue of David, there are some paintings hanging on the walls.



In the right transept you will see a painting called *Allegoria della Carità* (Charity).



In the painting you can see a woman looking after three children.
The woman is the symbol of charity, generosity and love towards others.

You can also see a little dog in the painting.



In the past, artists would paint little dogs as a symbol of friendship and loyalty.

On the other side is the left transept.



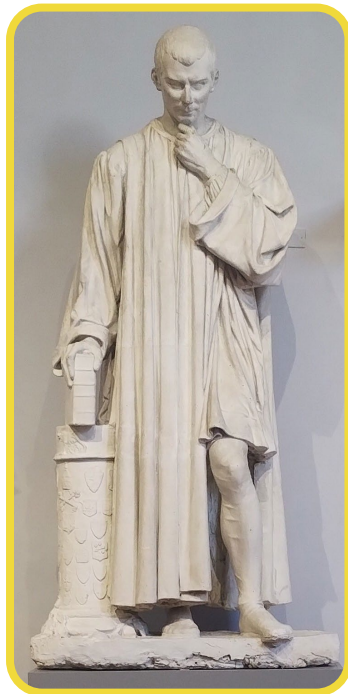
From here you can take the steps into the Gipsoteca (Plaster casts Gallery).



The Gipsoteca is a large hall with lots of antique plaster cast statues. In Greek, an ancient language, the word 'gypsos' means 'plaster'.

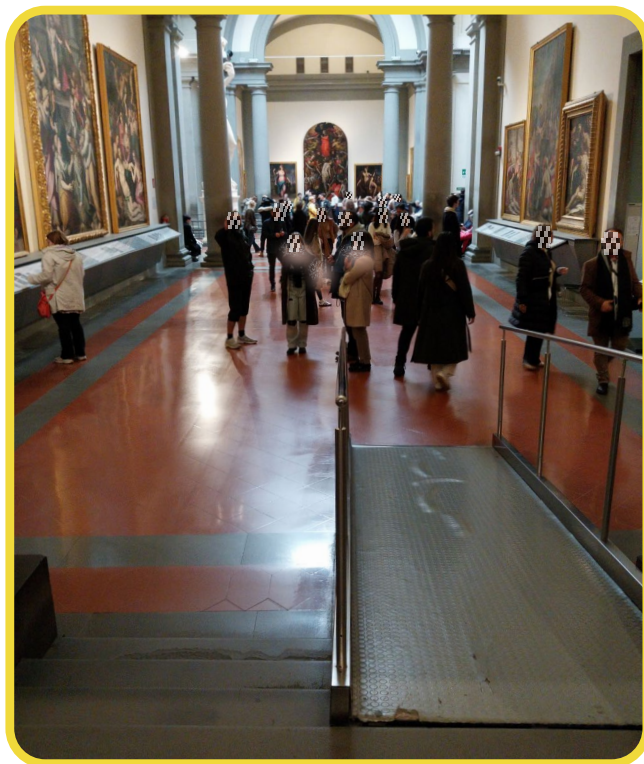


On the left wall of this room you can see the statue of Niccolò Machiavelli.



Niccolò Macchiavelli was a Renaissance writer and politician, who lived during the same period as Michelangelo Buonarroti. The statue is of Niccolò Machiavelli standing up, holding his most famous book 'The Prince' in his hand.

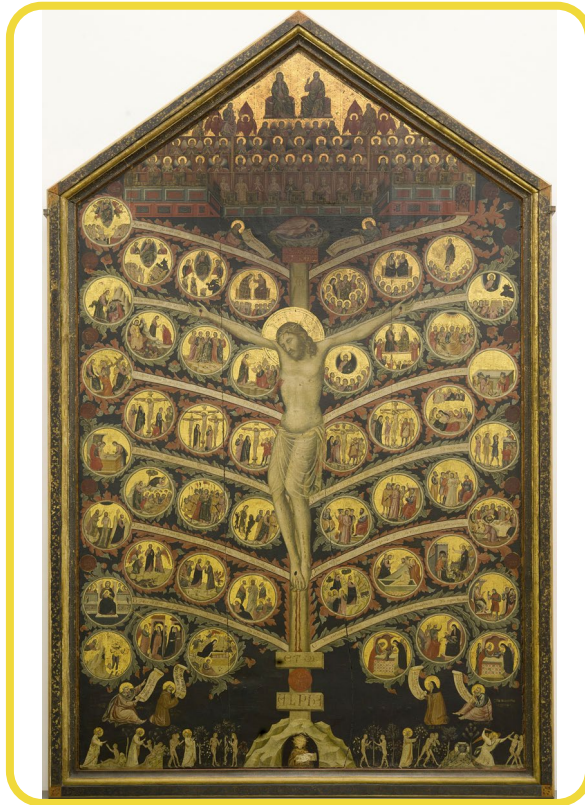
When you come out of the Gipsoteca and down the steps, you can continue your visit of the museum.



On your right is a room called the Sala di Pacino (Pacino's Room).



Here you will find a painting called L'Albero della Vita (The Tree of Life) with lots of people in it.



In the middle of the painting you can see Jesus on the Cross. There are lots of branches growing out of Jesus's arms, just like a tree. There are medallions hanging from each branch that tell the story of Jesus's life.

The next room along is the Sala di Giotto e dei Giotteschi (Giotto and Giotteschi's Room).

Here you can see an artwork made up of many parts. Each of these parts is called a formella (tile).



Each tile tells the story of Jesus and of St. Francis.

St. Francis was a very good man.

St. Francis gave up all his riches to share Jesus's message with the people.



If you go back again through these rooms you will find the Sala degli Orcagna (Orcagna's Room).

In this room you can admire the works of a family of painters called Orcagna and their students.



In the Orcagna's Room you will see a beautiful gold painting called *Incoronazione della Vergine* (Coronation of the Virgin).

The Virgin is Mary (the Madonna), the mother of Jesus.

In the painting Jesus crowns his mother, like a queen.



At the bottom there are some saints:

- St. John the Evangelist is standing with a staff in his hand.
- St. Reparata is holding a model of the city of Florence in her hand.



When you come out of this room you will see the signs for the bathrooms.



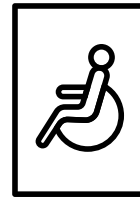
Then, you will see the museum's bookshop.

In the bookshop you can buy a souvenir of your visit to the museum:

- books
- pens
- lots of gifts made for the museum



After the bookshop continue to walk along the corridor.
At the end of the corridor you will find the bathroom on the right.



If you need to use this bathroom you will need to ask the person who works in the bookshop for the key.

Opposite the bathroom there is a lift up to the first floor to continue the tour.



To go up to the next floor you can either:

- use the stairs
- take the lift

If you decide to take the lift, when you get in, press button 1.



Now you're on the first floor of the museum.

The first room in front of you contains some very old paintings.



Some of the paintings have come from far away, like the Madonna col Bambino (Madonna and Child).

The painting Madonna and Child is on the right when you enter the room.

It has a completely gold background and it comes from Greece.

This type of artwork is called an icon.



Going up the steps you will arrive in the next room.

This room is dedicated to Lorenzo Monaco.

Lorenzo Monaco is a famous painter who lived a very long time ago, between 1300 and 1400.



In this room there is a painting with an interesting shape, with three pointed panels.

This is called a triptych.

In this work Lorenzo Monaco has painted the Annunciation, which is the moment when the Angel Gabriel, sent by God, tells the Virgin Mary that she is pregnant with Baby Jesus.



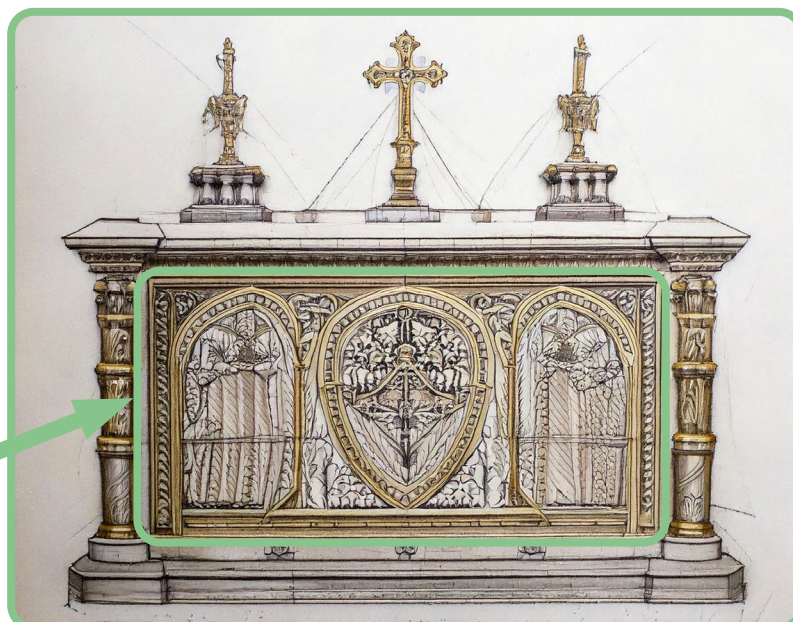
You will find other paintings in this room by artists who lived in the same period as Lorenzo Monaco.



There is another interesting artwork in this room, made entirely of fabric.
The figures in this piece are sewn onto a large piece of fabric with precious materials like silk, silver and gold.
This work shows Jesus crowning the Virgin Mary.



This type of artwork is called a paliotto.
Paliotti were used to decorate church altars.



The last room of the museum is up the stairs to the right.



In this last room you can see a painting that is made up of 6 frames.
Each frame tells the story of the life of Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary (the Madonna).
The tile in the top right shows the Nativity scene with the birth of Jesus.



To go back down to the ground floor and to leave the museum you can either:

- use the stairs
- take the lift

If you decide to take the lift, when you get in, press button 0.



Before leaving the museum you will find bathrooms on your left.



We are so happy you came to visit
the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze
and we hope you come back soon!





Edited by
The Education and Accessibility Department of the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze
in collaboration with
MARE - Laboratorio di innovazione sociale