

The Annunciation in Art
January 8, 2025

- I. Introduction: Why have art in Christianity?
- II. The event: read below
- III. Fra Angelico background (1395-1455)
- IV. View “Annunciation,” 1426, Prado
- V. Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-82)
- VI. View “Annunciation (*Ecce Ancilla Domini*),” 1850, London
- VII. Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937)
- VIII. View “Annunciation,” 1898, Philadelphia
- IX. Lessons
- X. Prayer

Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.