

# Fra Angelico

1395-1455

Fra Angelico da Fiesole was an Italian monk who was one of the greatest painters of the early Renaissance. Fra was not his name – it was his title in the monastery, meaning “brother”, like being called Mr. or Dr.

Fra Angelico learned drawing and painting by illuminating manuscripts at the monastery, hand lettering pages of books, and drawing pictures to illustrate stories. He was asked to paint on the walls of his monastery, fresco paintings made on wet new white plaster.



**Annunciation of Cortona  
also known as**

**The Annunciation to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel**

Angelico painted inspiring scenes from the Christian Bible. His pictures are very beautiful, filled with delicate colors and a feeling of peaceful serenity.



### **(Close-up from) The Coronation of the Virgin**

Artists of this era often gave halos to the angels and people in their paintings. This golden ring around a figure's head was meant to show an inner goodness shining out for everyone to see. Halos were often made with real gold, not with gold paint. Gold metal was pounded into a very thin sheet called "gold leaf", then glued onto the wall or canvas with a varnish.





**Madonna and Child**





**The Coronation of the Virgin**