



UFFIZI GALLERY

One of the most visited art museums in the world

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The **Uffizi Gallery** is a prominent art museum located adjacent to the **Piazza della Signoria** in the **Historic Centre of Florence** in the region of Tuscany, Italy. One of the most important Italian museums and the most visited, it is also one of the largest and best known in the world and holds a collection of priceless works, particularly from the period of the **Italian Renaissance**.



FLORENCE







After the ruling [house of Medici](#) died out, their art collections were gifted to the city of Florence under the famous *Patto di famiglia* negotiated by [Anna Maria Luisa](#), the last Medici heiress. The Uffizi is one of the first modern museums. The gallery had been open to visitors by request since the sixteenth century, and in 1765 it was officially opened to the public, formally becoming a museum in 1865.^[5]

Today, the Uffizi is one of the most popular [tourist attractions](#) of Florence and one of the most visited art museums in the world.

The Gallery entirely occupies the first and second floors of the large building constructed between 1560 and 1580 and designed by Giorgio Vasari. It is famous worldwide for its outstanding collections of ancient sculptures and paintings (from the Middle Ages to the Modern period).



The collections of paintings from the 14th-century and Renaissance period include some absolute masterpieces: Giotto, Simone Martini, Piero della Francesca, Beato Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Mantegna, Correggio, Leonardo, Raffaello, Michelangelo and Caravaggio, in addition to many precious works by European painters (mainly German, Dutch and Flemish).



The most
important
artworks at the
Uffizi Gallery



Author:

Simone Martini (Siena 1284 ca. –
Avignone 1344) e Lippo Memmi (Siena
attested between 1317 and 1347)

The signed and dated painting was
completed for the altar of St. Ansanus
in the transept of Siena cathedral,
dedicated to the Assumption of the
Virgin Mary. In the painting, the
Archangel Gabriel appears to the Virgin
Mary to tell her of the forthcoming birth
of Jesus and greets her with the words
shown on the raised inscription on the
gold background: “AVE GRATIA PLENA
DOMINUS TECUM”.



Author

Piero della Francesca (Sansepolcro, Arezzo,

1416/17 – 1492

One of the most celebrated portraits of the Italian Renaissance, the diptych features the Duke of Urbino, Federico da Montefeltro (1422-1482) and his wife Battista Sforza (1446-1472).





**Virgin and Child
enthroned,
surrounded by angels
and saints
(Ognissanti Maestà)**

Giotto (Vespignano, Vicchio di Mugello
1267 – Firenze 1337)



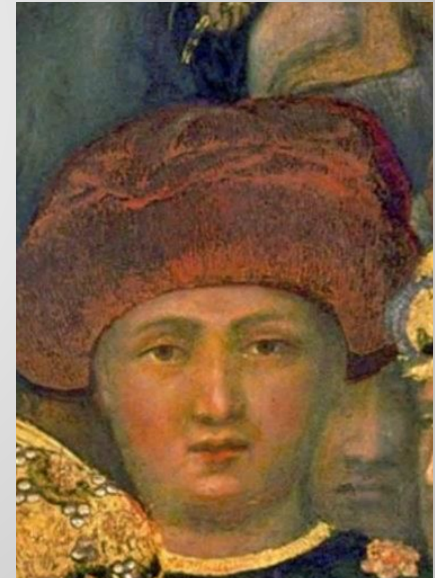


Adoration of the Magi

Author

Gentile da Fabriano (Fabriano, 1370 c.

– Roma 1427)





Mary, Christ and the young John the Baptist, known as the “Madonna of the Goldfinch”

Author

Raffaello Sanzio (Urbino 1483 – Roma 1520)



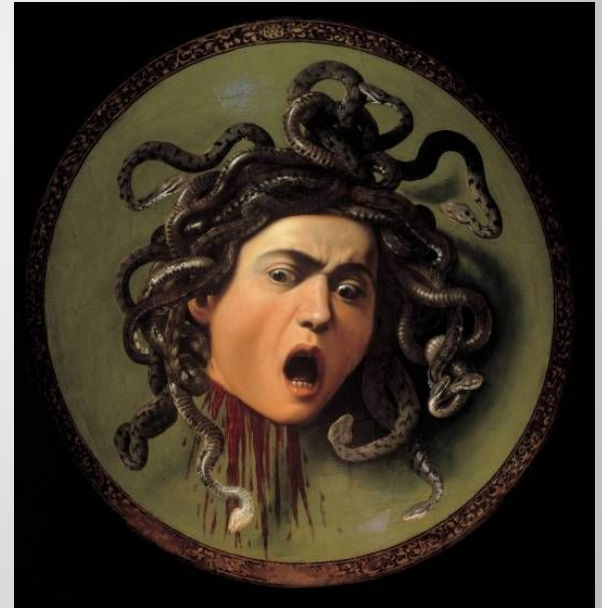


Bacchus

Author

Michelangelo Merisi detto il Caravaggio (Milano

1571 - Porto Ercole 1610)





Annunciation

Author

Leonardo da Vinci (Vinci 1452 – Amboise 1519)-1472





Holy Family, known as the “Doni Tondo”

Author

Michelangelo Buonarroti (Chiusi della Verna 1475 –
Roma 1564)

Michelangelo painted this Holy Family for a
Florentine merchant, Agnolo Doni, whose
prestigious marriage to Maddalena Strozzi in 1504
took place in a period that was crucial for early
16th-century Florentine art





Birth of Venus Author Sandro Botticelli (Firenze 1445 - 1510)

**Author**

Sandro Botticelli (Firenze 1445 - 1510)

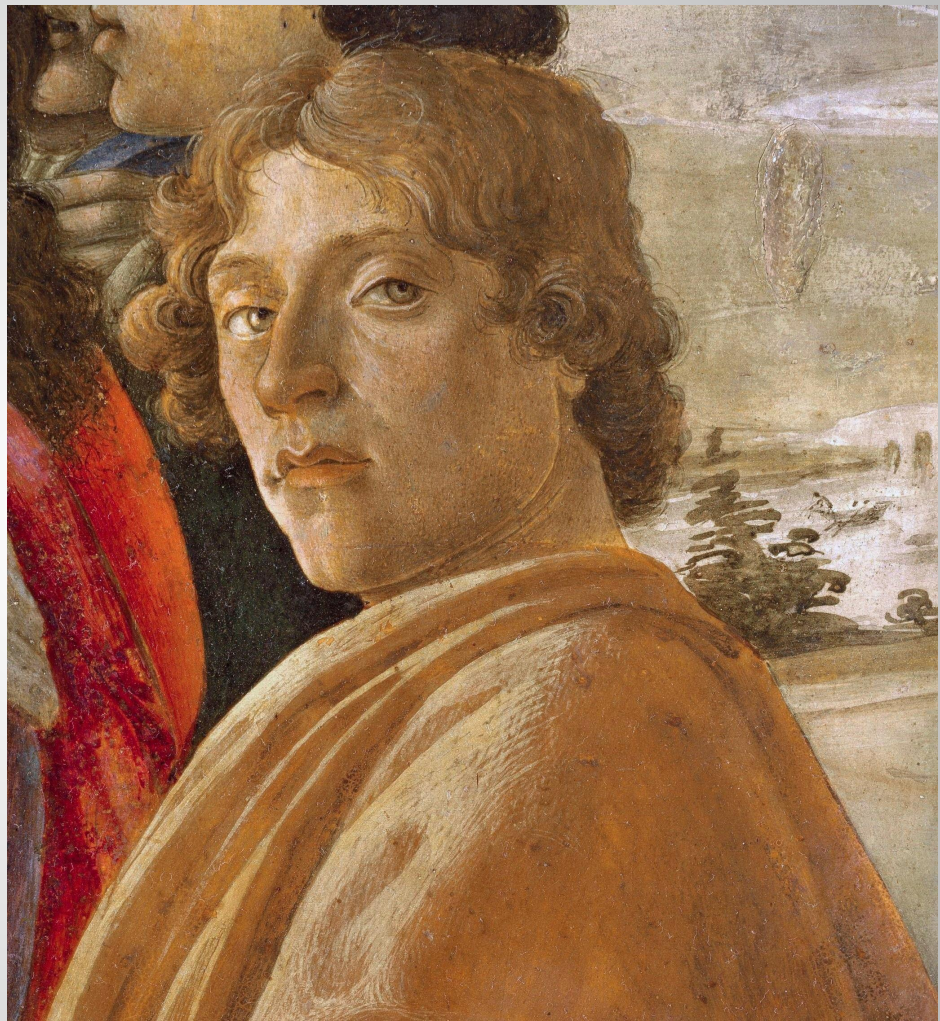
Known as the “Birth of Venus”, the composition actually shows the goddess of love and beauty arriving on land, on the island of Cyprus, born of the sea spray and blown there by the winds, Zephyr and, perhaps, Aura. The goddess is standing on a giant scallop shell, as pure and as perfect as a pearl. She is met by a young woman, who is sometimes identified as one of the Graces or as the Hora of spring, and who holds out a cloak covered in flowers. Even the roses, blown in by the wind are a reminder of spring. The subject of the painting, which celebrates Venus as symbol of love and beauty,



Author

Sandro Botticelli (Florence, 1445

1510)





Birth of Venus Author Sandro Botticelli (Firenze 1445 - 1510)

This painting, usually known as the *Primavera* [or 'Spring'] shows nine figures from classic mythology advancing over a flowery lawn in a grove of orange and laurel trees. In the foreground, to the right, Zephyrus embraces a nymph named Chloris before taking her; she is then portrayed after her transformation into Flora, the spring goddess. The centre of the painting is dominated by the goddess of love and beauty, Venus, chastely dressed and set slightly back from the others, and by a blindfolded Cupid, firing his arrow of love.

On the left, the three Graces, minor goddesses with virtues like those of Venus, are shown dancing in a circle. The composition is closed by Mercury, messenger of the Gods, recognisable from his helmet and winged sandals, as he touches a cloud with his staff.

Although the complex meaning of the composition remains a mystery, the painting is a celebration of love, peace, and prosperity. The dark colour of the vegetation is in part due to the ageing process of the original pigment, but is lightened by the abundance of fruits and flowers. At least 138 species of different plants have been identified, all accurately portrayed by Botticelli, perhaps using herbaria. The attention to detail confirms the artist's commitment to this piece, which is also evident in the sheer skill with which the paint has been applied.



Moreover, the Gallery boasts an invaluable collection of ancient statues and busts from the Medici family, which adorns the corridors and consists of ancient Roman copies of lost Greek sculptures.



