

LaGalleria

Lippo di Dalmasio

Bologna, 1353 circa – 1410

The Madonna of Humility and Angels

Tempera su tela

Modena, Corporate Collection La Galleria BPER Banca

According to a widely adopted solution in the 14th century, the Virgin is depicted not seated on a throne, but on a cushion placed directly on a flowery meadow. This iconography highlights Mary's complete and humble acceptance through which the mystery of Jesus's incarnation is fulfilled. The luminous halo behind her, the stars surrounding her head, and the small crescent moon at her feet also identify her as the "Woman Clothed with the Sun" mentioned by John in the Book of Revelation (12:2). Lippo di Dalmasio, one of the most representative artists in Bologna between the late 14th and early 15th centuries, imbues this religious image with a profound human and maternal sense. This subtly cracks the purely devotional and symbolic, almost theophanic, tone emanating from the shining disk of light. The painter emphasizes the Virgin's serene beauty and the lively gaze of the Child, giving even more truth to the composition with the illusionistic device of her mantle, which, with its scythe-like folds, extends beyond the frame. The flowery meadow, a clear reference to the hortus conclusus of the Song of Songs (4:12) and the Garden of Eden, also participates in this rediscovered naturalness, thriving with large white lily blossoms at the peak of their bloom.

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