St. Mary Major
THE ANNUNCIATION

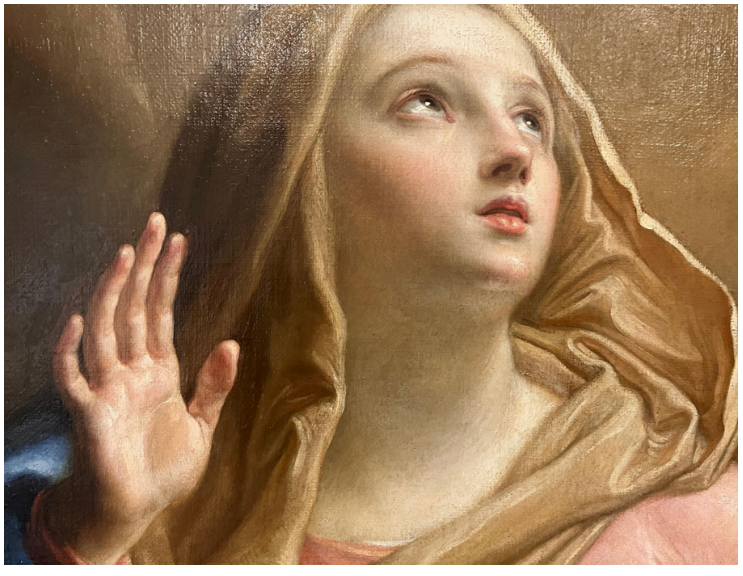


FINAL RESTORATION REPORT
JULY 2026

Description

Trained by some of the finest masters of his time, Pompeo Batoni's work is a rich blend of classicism and baroque influences. His expertise in portraiture and his ability to evoke deep emotions earned him commissions from various European courts, making him one of the most sought-after artists of the 18th century. Influenced by Correggio's softness, the painting depicts the Archangel Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she will conceive Jesus. Mary's serene and humble expression, Gabriel's dynamic pose, and symbolic elements such as the lily and the book emphasize the divine encounter. Batoni's use of light and color enhances the ethereal quality of the scene, making The Annunciation a remarkable example of 18th-century Italian religious art.





Details of the Virgin Mary after restoration

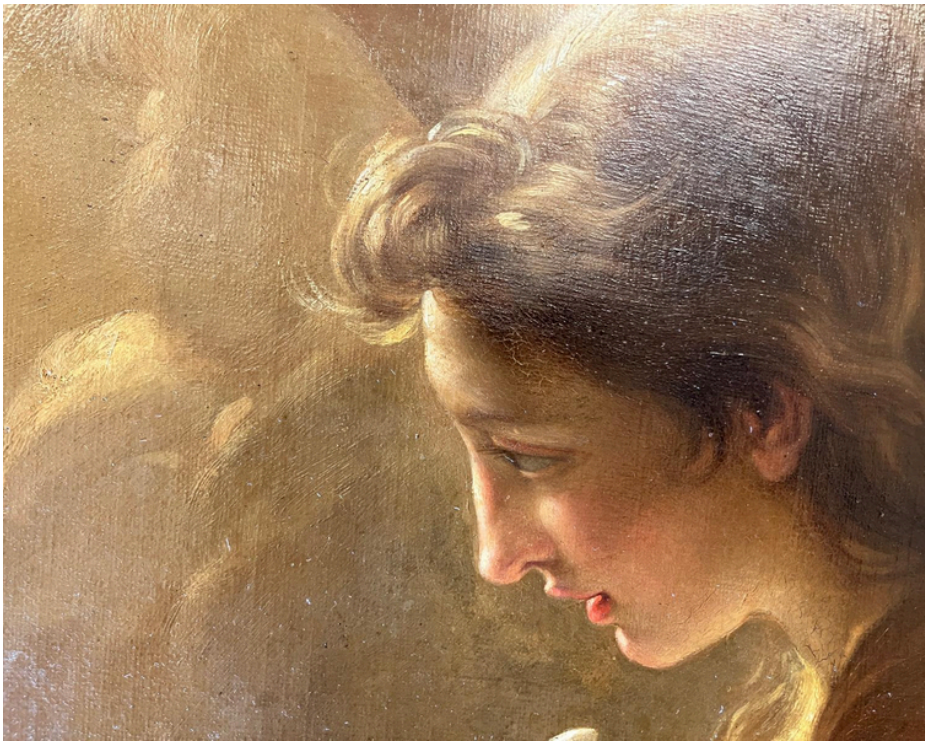
The Restoration

The restoration process completed at the end of June included:

- Removal of surface deposits and altered protective layers using mechanical and chemical methods
- Review of the relining
- Pre-consolidation and consolidation of detached areas
- Cleaning tests and surface cleaning
- Filling losses with plaster and adhesive
- Pictorial reintegration using reversible and recognizable restoration techniques
- Review of the frame and adjustment of canvas tension

The painting's surface was affected by oxidized varnishes, overpainting, and atmospheric deposits that obscure the artist's original palette. Water infiltration and runoff have also caused localized instability in the paint layers, while small tears in the canvas have resulted from accidental impacts over time. During the conservation campaign, restorers carefully cleaned the surface, stabilized weakened areas, and addressed structural concerns affecting both the paint layers and textile support. The intervention aimed to recover the clarity of Batoni's composition while ensuring the long-term preservation of the painting and its historic frame.





The Archangel Gabriel After Restoration



The painting transported back to its niche





The painting is back in its niche after restoration



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