

Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337)

Arena Chapel, Padua, Italy, c. 1305.

The *Annunciation*, fresco on wall, each of the lateral sections measuring cm 195X150

Stories from the life of Virgin Mary

These, organized on the top section of the chapel left wall, according to a logical sense, start from the building entrance and unfold to reach the opposite side. The last and tripartite fresco featuring the Annunciation, painted on the sides and on the top section of the entrance arch, depicts *The Mission of the Annunciation to Mary*, *The Announcing Angel* and *The Virgin of the Annunciation*. The tripartite conceptual narrative is part of the same representation: the Eternal in the top section, enthroned and surrounded by legions of angels, moves the unfolding of events; at the two edges of the arch stand Archangel Gabriel announcing the fact (on the left) and the Virgin Mary of Annunciation (on the right). Through the skillful positioning of the characters, the statuesque solemnity and the persuasive eloquence of God, Giotto attained to immediately and impressively communicate the realization of God's will on earth. The Virgin Mary holds the Scriptures in her arms and is no longer described as the slender, timid girl, dressed in white gowns, as she was in the previous episodes of this same cycle, but as a dramatic character, emanating an intense and solemn morality. She wears the red *dalmatica* and is fully aware that she shall conceive and bear the Word of God. The Archangel, a simple intermediary between Heaven and earth, blesses her, while the Holy Spirit irradiates her in the form of a light beam. Both, Mary and the Archangel, are depicted against a background featuring a curtain, tied in a knot, standing as a symbol for indissolubility and revelation, and are contained within identical, specular marble shrines, with projecting perspectives as well as perspectives converging towards the centre.

<http://www.cappelladegli-scrovegni.it/index.php/en/>

<https://legacy-uma.org/oeuvre/lives-italian-renaissance-giotto-annunciation-god-sends-gabriel-virgin-scrovegni-chapel/>