

Fra' Filippo Lippi

Born: In Florence, 1406

Died: October 8, 1469, Spoleto (59-60)

Nationality: Italian

Field: Painting, Fresco

Children: Filippino Lippi

Periods: Italian Renaissance, Renaissance



Madonna with the Child and two Angels 1465

There is a pale skinned woman sitting down. She has blonde hair that is pulled back by

a veil. She is wearing a green dress and she's holding her hands together as if she's praying. Next to her are two pale skinned, little children. They are both holding a pale skinned baby that is reaching out to the woman. The baby is clothed in nothing but a cloth wrapped around her. She has wavy blond hair. One child that is holding the baby has wavy blonde hair and a white tunic on, while the other child holding the baby is not shown. All you can see is her tiny nose and mouth, but the rest of her face is covered by the baby reaching out to the woman. The background is a big framed painting. Some of what is shown in the painting are huge rocks and a bunch of land.



Herod's Banquet (detail-1) 1452-65



Coronation of the Virgin (detail) 1466-69

"Coronation of the Virgin (detail) 1466-69." *Fra Filippo Lippi*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Dec. 2012. <[http://www.frafilippolippi.org/Coronation-of-the-Virgin-\(detail\)-1466-69.html](http://www.frafilippolippi.org/Coronation-of-the-Virgin-(detail)-1466-69.html)>.

In this painting there is a woman bowing down to a man. The woman has on a head covering and a long white cloak. The cloak has beautiful gold patterns and has gold rimmed all around it. Under the cloak she has on a long red dress. The woman is pale skinned. She's bowing down with her eyes close, and her hands are together as if she is praying. Over her is a large man that is sitting down. He is pale skinned and has a white beard. He has a huge crown on top of his head, and a long green and blue cloak that also has gold rimmed around it. One sides of them are pale skinned people, some are watching and some seem to be talking to each other. There is a huge sun behind them. Around the sun are the colors, green, yellow, and red. They are shaped in the form of a rainbow. Under them is the color blue and it's wavy as if they are on top of

water.



St Stephen is Born and Replaced by Another Child (detail-1) 1452-65

"St Stephen Is Born and Replaced by Another Child (detail-1) 1452-65." *Fra Filippo Lippi*
.N.p.,n.d. Web. 19 Dec. 2012.

<[http://www.frafilippolippi.org/St-Stephen-is-Born-and-Replaced-by-Another-Child-\(detail-1\)-1452-65.html](http://www.frafilippolippi.org/St-Stephen-is-Born-and-Replaced-by-Another-Child-(detail-1)-1452-65.html)>.



Madonna in the Forest (detail) c. 1460

"Madonna in the Forest (detail) C. 1460." *Fra Filippo Lippi*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Dec. 2012. <<http://www.frafilippolippi.org/Madonna-in-the-Forest-%28detail%29-c.-1460.html>>.

In Fra Filippo Lippi's paintings, I notice that most of them are paintings of women bowing down to men. The artist seems to portray women as servants. In one painting a woman is bowing down to a guy that seems of high regard. He is sitting over her with his hands raised and she is bowing down. She's not looking him in the eye and her hands are together as if she's praying. But why a woman? Why not a man? Why does this artist paint no other than women seeming to serve other men? Not only does this artist paint women bowing down to men but he paints naked female babies. I notice that this is an ongoing pattern. This relates to the time of the renaissance because this is the time when nude women were portrayed as objects. Although women in Fra Filippo's paintings aren't nude, except for the female babies, they are still portrayed as servants to men. In a way this is saying that women are objects to serve men, and aren't good for anything else but to please them. I also observe that he's not only big on women but also on saints. This is interesting because during the renaissance people lost focus on religion, and started focusing more on big houses, new inventions, fine art, and other luxuries. I actually notice that Fra Filippo Lippi had a lot of religious paintings. So maybe he wasn't just focusing on women, and when he did focus on them maybe it wasn't to portray them as servants. Maybe he was trying to portray them as important. He had a lot of paintings with single women and their children. One was a painting of a woman

with two little angels holding her baby, and the baby was reaching out to the woman. So maybe he was highlighting the importance of women.