

Madonna and Child Enthroned with Donors and Saints Dominic and Elizabeth of Hungary

Date

ca. 1343

Primary Maker

Lippo Vanni

Medium

tempera on wood

Description

One of the most talented followers of Pietro Lorenzetti (active 1306?-ca. 1348), Lippo Vanni trained and worked in Siena. This altarpiece was painted early in his career, during a sojourn in Naples in 1342-1343. It is of great historical importance because it is one of the few works that has survived intact from the period when the French royal house of Anjou ruled Naples (1266-1435). Two fourteenth-century members of the Angevin family, Queen Elizabeth of Hungary and her son, Prince Andreas, who wears a cloak decorated with fleurs-de-lis, the armorial emblem of the kings of France, are shown kneeling at the feet of the Virgin. Their diminutive size and position in relation to the Madonna and Child was customary in Italian medieval art for representing those individuals who donated the painting to the church. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, on the right-hand wing of the altarpiece, was the Queen's patron saint. Saint Dominic may have been included because the altarpiece was painted for a Dominican foundation.

Dimensions

Framed: 80 1/4 x 102 1/2 x 6 in. (203.8 x 260.4 x 15.2 cm)