

LAMENTATION, C. 1305-1306

by Giotto di Bondone

As the "Father of the Renaissance," Giotto was considered the best painter of his time, as well as a superior innovator. He was featured in Dante's Purgatory of 1315, and is the first post-Classical artist to become famous beyond his own city and lifetime.

Giotto was influenced by Cavallini, and in turn was an influence on Masaccio.

The monotony of the deep blue sky is broken up by geometric shapes, becoming the perfect backdrop to such a dramatic narrative.



The picture plane is split in half, depicting the swirling emotions of the angels on top, and the much more solid mass of grief in the congregating humans on the bottom.

The dead, withered tree in the right-hand corner is a representation of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, referring to the original sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the sin of humanity, which is the reason Christ was crucified.

Giotto is one of the first artists to create intense renderings of human form and emotion.

From 1305-1309, Giotto created frescoes depicting the lives of Christ and His followers for the Scrovegni Chapel located in Padua, Italy. He was commissioned by Enrico Scrovegni, one of Padua's wealthiest citizens, who hoped to save the soul of his father, Reginaldo, as well as his own, by erecting the chapel.

Fresco paint was applied directly to the walls of the chapel, giving durability and a vibrant appearance.

Some figures are seen from behind, in order to emphasize the foreground, and place the viewer in the painting.

A Short History

Born	Married, worked on Basilica of St. Francis.	Designed a Mosaic showing the calling of Peter for old St. Peter's in Rome.	Focused on architecture and sculpture in Florence	Died
1267	1290s	1310	1330s	1337
1280s	1300s	1320s		
Went to Rome, apprenticeship under Cimabue.	Worked on Scrovegni Chapel.	Worked on Peruzzi and Bardì Chapels.		

