

## AR2 – 3b



Title	The Annunciation (or Ecce Ancilla Domini)
Date	1850
Artist	Dante Gabriel Rossetti 1828 - 1882
About the artist	<p>He was a poet, painter and designer. He attended the Royal Academy Antique School and became part of a group called the Pre-Raphaelites, a group of artists who wanted to convey the richness of the medieval period in their art.</p> <p>His early Art was religious art, full of Mystical Symbolism. He married, and his art flourished until his wife passed away. He buried a lot of his work with her and spent the rest of his life in mourning.</p>
About the painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary, covering with her eyes down, appears terrified by the angel. This is contrary to some of the more common depictions of the Annunciation. In addition Mary seems to be very young, again contrary to the more womanly image evident in other pieces.</li> <li>• The colour white dominates this image, clearly demonstrating the purity of Mary, reinforced in the presentation of a lily which always means purity when present with the Virgin Mary.</li> <li>• The only other colours present are; blue, hinting at the royalty and importance of Mary as queen of heaven; red, pointing forward to the fate of this child, who will suffer and die for the sake of mankind; yellow; which suggests divinity.</li> <li>• Both figures have Halos around their heads, representing that they are not merely normal humans but much more holy.</li> <li>• The angel does not have elaborate wings or fancy clothes, in fact the only thing which suggests that it is not of this world is the fire surrounding its feet.</li> </ul>