

*Adoration of the Magi*, by Gentile da Fabriano (ca. 1423)

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This artwork appears in the [December 10, 2014](#) issue.



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The adoration of the Magi was an important subject for Florentines, as many men were part of the civic organization dedicated to the Magi. Palla Strozzi, a powerful banker, commissioned Gentile da Fabriano (1385–1427) to paint this work for his family burial chapel in the sacristy of Santa Trinita in Florence. Da Fabriano's paintings combine the naturalism of the Early Renaissance with the elegant, refined

drapery style and meticulous attention to detail that characterize the International Gothic style. In this composition, the oldest Magus prostrates himself before the Christ child, who affectionately touches his balding head; the second Magus lifts his right hand to remove his crown; the youngest Magus stands waiting his turn. The predella (the horizontal panel beneath the central composition) shows three scenes from the infancy narrative of Christ: *Nativity* (bottom left) is believed to be the first painted night scene.