

II. DOMENICO GHIRLANDAJO. Ospedale degli Innocenti, Florence.

This panel is a fine example of this popular painter's highly accomplished and pleasing, but not very intellectual narrative style. It is dated (on the arch) 1488, and thus belongs to the time when he was engaged on his most famous work, the frescoes in S. Maria Novella (1486-1490). The background shows the Massacre of the Innocents on the left, and the Annunciation to the Shepherds on the right. The fourth from the right of the figures in the distance to the left of the Virgin is said to be a portrait of the artist. The hand of assistants is probably responsible for certain portions of the work; thus the background with the Massacre of the Innocents has been attributed to Bartolommeo di Giovanni.