

# HISTORY IN ART

## Pisanello c.1395–c.1455

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c.1395 – Pisanello born probably in Pisa, although he spends his early life near Verona. His original name is Antonio di Puccio Pisano. His early training is in Verona, a city that he remains associated with for the rest of his life. But he travels widely in northern Italy in the course of his work. In his early life generally regarded as an artist of the International Gothic style.

c.1415 – Works as an assistant to the illuminator Gentile da Fabriano. They work together on frescoes in the Doge's Palace in Venice (since destroyed). Pisanello also paints his *Madonna of the Quail* in this period.

1420s – Pisanello begins working for the Gonzaga family in Mantua and continues working for them until the 1440s. He also visits Florence to work with Andrea del Castagno, known for his equestrian monument of Niccolò da Tolentino in Florence cathedral. Another artist working in Florence at this time is Paolo Uccello, also known for his depiction of horses. Pisanello's love for painting horses and other animals probably dates from when he encountered these artists' works. He paints the fresco *The Annunciation* in San Fermo in Verona. He is also thought to have worked on frescoes in Pavia for the Duke of Milan (but, if so, the frescoes no longer exist).

1430s – Completes frescoes by Gentile da Fabriano (who has died) in the church of St John Lateran in Rome (destroyed when the church was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century – although some drawings exist). Becomes more attracted to the classical styles of the Renaissance in Rome, although International Gothic remains influential in his work. Paints his great work the fresco *St George and the Princess of Trebizond* in the church of Sant'Anastasia in Verona (repaired after serious damage in the 19<sup>th</sup> century).

1435 – His enthusiasm for medal making begins. He also focuses more on portraiture in his painting. One of his portraits is described as "of a Princess" and it is probably a relative of Lionello d'Este, Marquess of Ferrara, who employed him to create many medals/coins. He also creates medals for lords of other Italian courts, including Gonzaga and Malatesta.

1438 – Pisanello working in Mantua for the Gonzagas is implicated in the capture of Verona during a war between Milan and Venice and his life is in danger for while.

c.1440 – Paints his famous *The Vision of St Eustace*.

1441 – Paints a portrait of Lionello d'Este in Ferrara.

c.1447 – Paints fresco series *Scenes of War and Chivalry* in Mantua.

1448 – Moves to Naples and the Aragon court. He is feted there and may have lived there for about five or more years until his death around 1455.