

# OUR LADY OF THE BATTUTI

Artist: Vitale da Bologna  
Date: 1340  
Dimensions: 95.6 x 68 cm  
Material: Tempera and gold on wood panel with gilded frame  
Inventory Number: 40017

Total Cost: € 6.460,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The painting is unfortunately not in a good state of preservation. The wood is affected by termites and has two large vertical fissures. The colors have changed due to oxidation and aging of the varnishes. The wood panel of this painting needs a new support system fitted with steel bars to allow the movement of the wood and avoid further cracks at the same time.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Anti-infestation measures
- Consolidation of the wooden support
- Location of new steel bars on the back
- Cleaning of the pictorial layer and removal of previous restorative interventions
- Cleaning and consolidation of the pictorial surfaces
- Stuccoing of the cracks
- Touching-up of the pictorial and gilt surfaces
- Photographic documentation
- Application of new varnishes

This elegant painting is named after the hospital of the "Battuti Bianchi." The Battuti were organized in confraternities dating back to the Middle Ages. The name comes from the penitential flagellation they inflicted upon themselves as a rule. They were devoted to Our Lady, the subject of this painting, and worked in charity and assistance. This included managing hospitals, hospices and assisting in religious rites. This panel was originally completed with the intent of being used as a processional banner and was displayed during the processions of the Battuti.

The painting of the Virgin Mary is on wood panel covered with gold leaf. The Virgin is portrayed with blond hair and wearing a black dress decorated with gold stars. She cradles the baby Jesus with both hands. He is dressed in pink and depicted with his hand in the act of blessing. Four Battuti are kneeling in their white and grey garb adorned with red crosses and holding their scourges in their hands.

