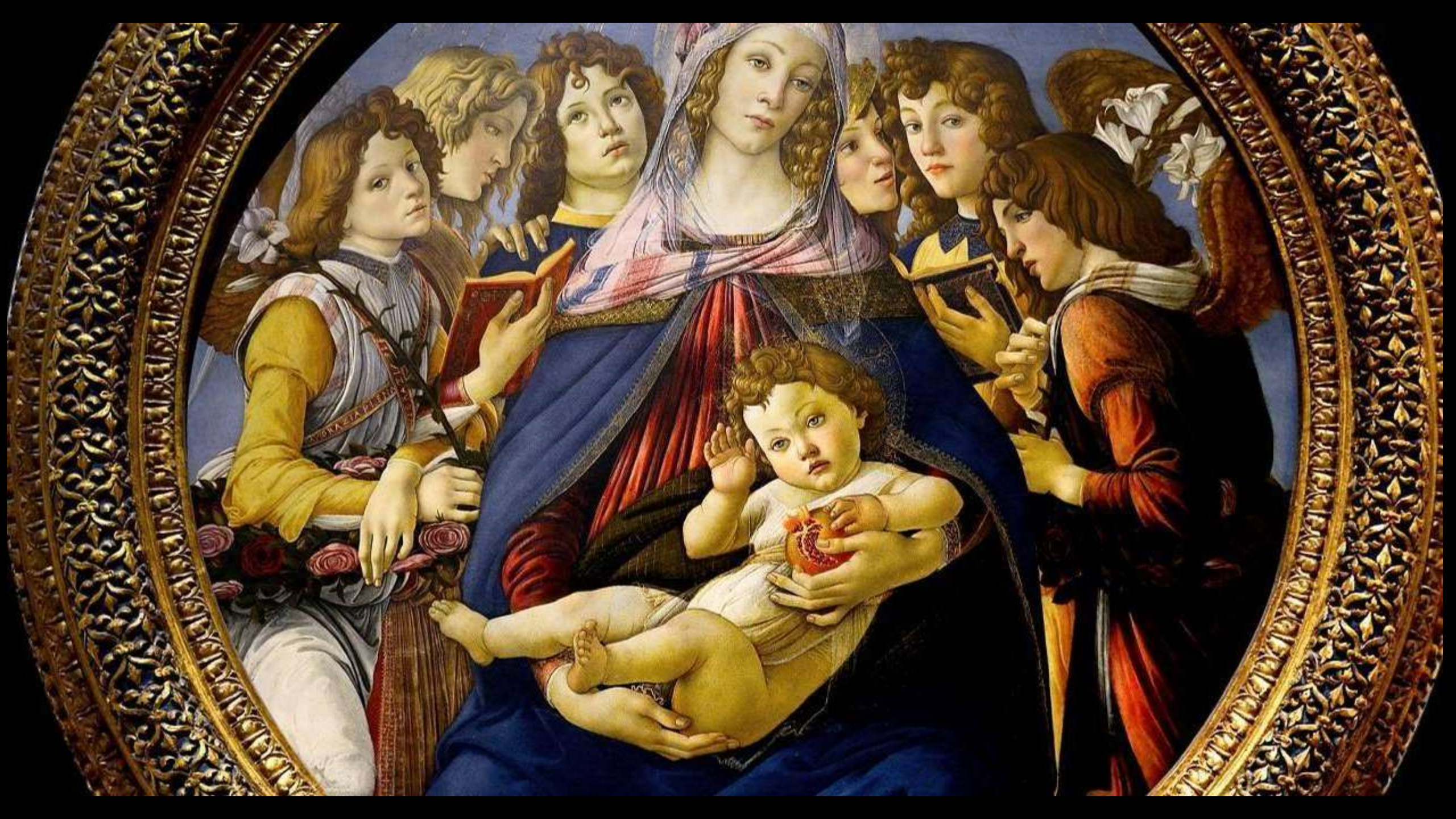




**The pomegranate
in Western Painting**



angels
lilies, roses
and

the pomegranate in Mary's hand symbolizing
Christ's Passion



Sandro Botticelli
Madonna of the Pomegranate
La Vierge à la grenade
1487
Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence





basic melancholy and meditative mood ...

the pomegranate, symbol of the Passion



Sandro Botticelli
Madonna of the Magnificat
La Madone du Magnificat
1481
Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence







Ag
nificat aia
mea dñi
raur sps n
glurari m
bumilia
ue-ere er
anc dice

Quia
me m
mi prebyr
umbra m om

**the pomegranate in Mary's hand alludes
to Christ's sacrifice and resurrection**

**Fra Angelico
The Virgin with the Pomegranate
la Vierge à la Grenade
1426
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid**









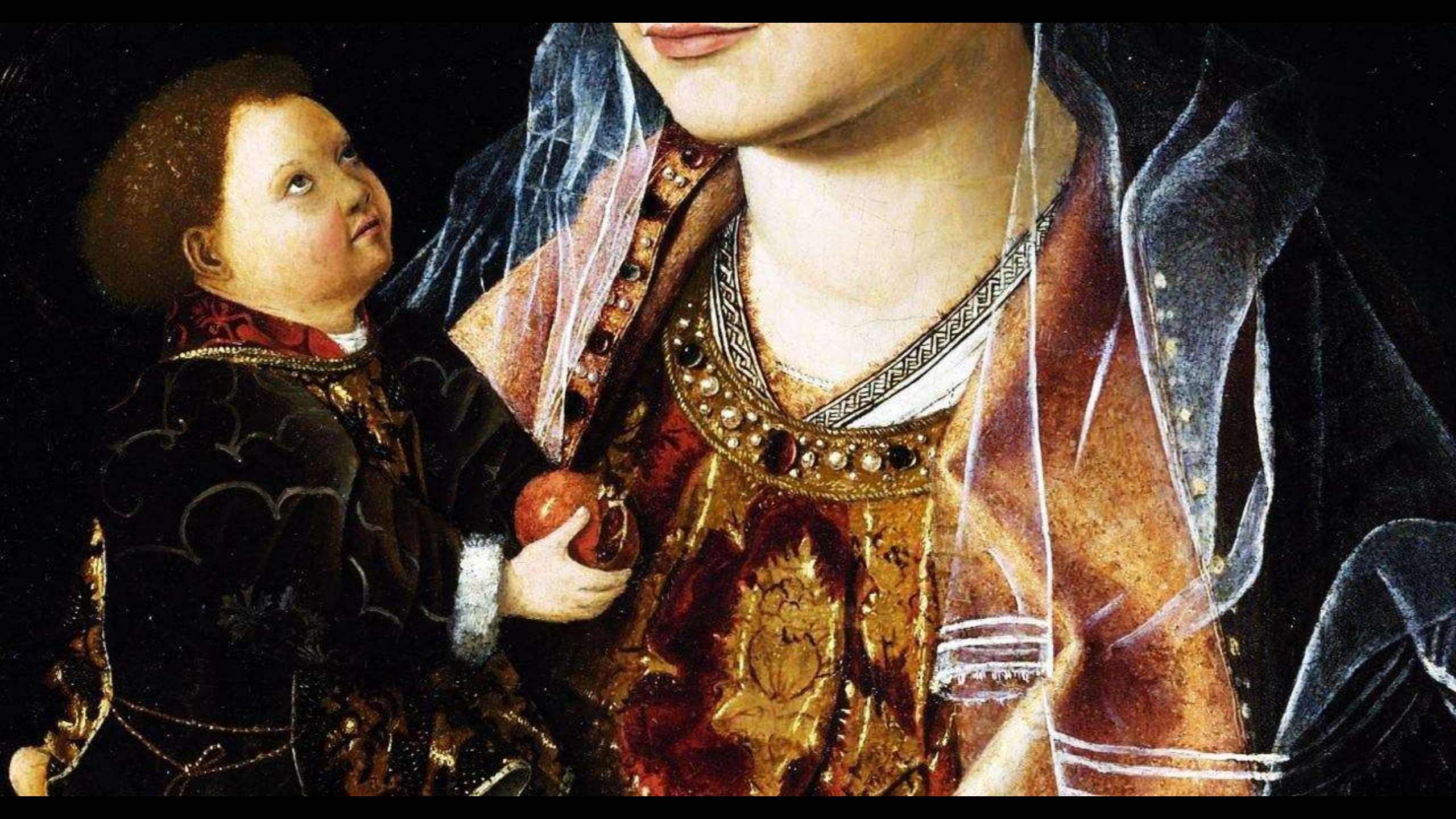
**Christ clutches a pomegranate, a reminder
of the torture and death he would face at
the Crucifixion**



**Antonello de Messina, possibly by, peut-être par
The Virgin and Child
La Vierge à l'Enfant
1460-1469
National Gallery, London**







a pomegranate, symbol of the Passion

**fruit such as apples and pears appear in many
Bellini paintings of the Virgin and Child**

**Giovanni Bellini
The Virgin and Child
La Vierge à l'Enfant
1480-1490
National Gallery, London**









a scene of calm grandeur

**the Infant Saint John the Baptist presents a cross
to the Christ Child
and**

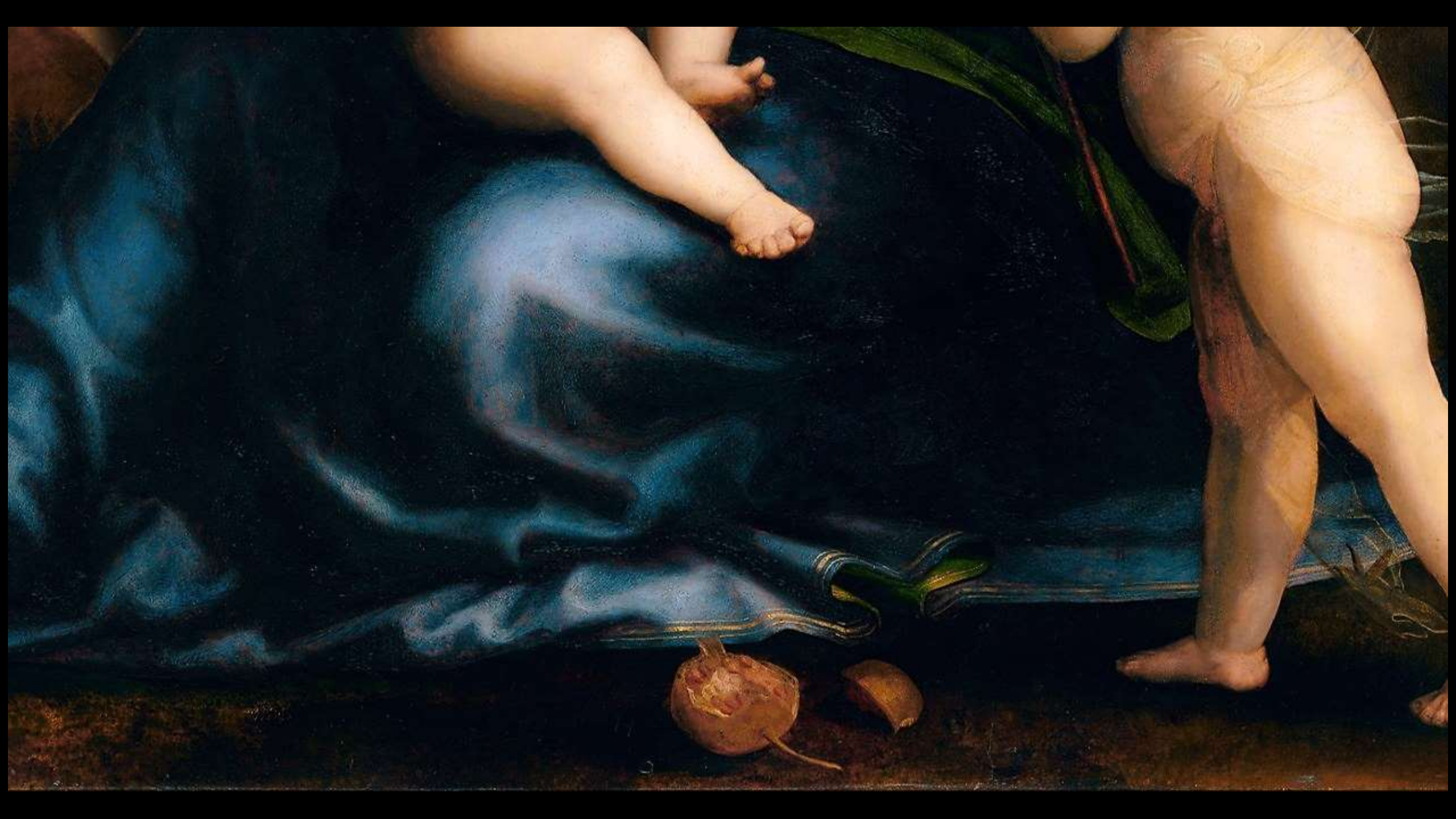
a pomegranate, symbol of Christ's resurrection

**Fra Bartolomeo
The Rest on the Flight into Egypt with St. John the Baptist
Le Repos pendant la fuite en Égypte avec saint Jean-Baptiste
1509
Getty Center, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles**









St. Gregory the Great, supported by red-winged cherubim, appearing to Santa Fina to announce her death ...

**a rat, a reference to Saint Fina's martyrdom (she was eaten alive by rats and worms)
the apple, a symbol of original sin
the wine refers to the Eucharist sacrament
and**

**the pomegranate, a symbol of royalty,
fertility, resurrection and unity of the Church**

**Domenico Ghirlandaio
Announcement of Death to St Fina
Annonce de la mort de sainte Fina
1473-1475
Saint Fina Chapel, Collegiata, San Gimignano**









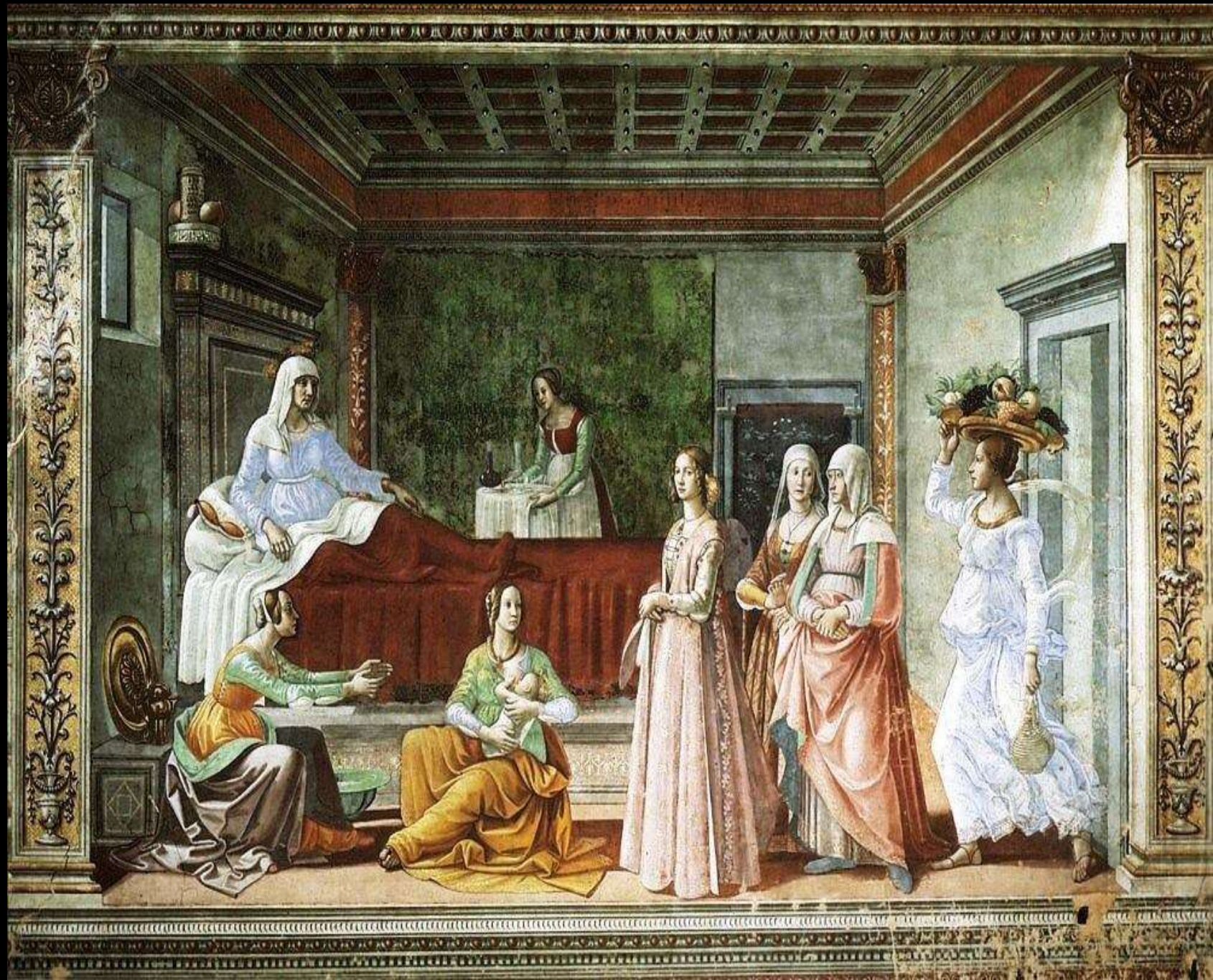
15th century Florentine decoration

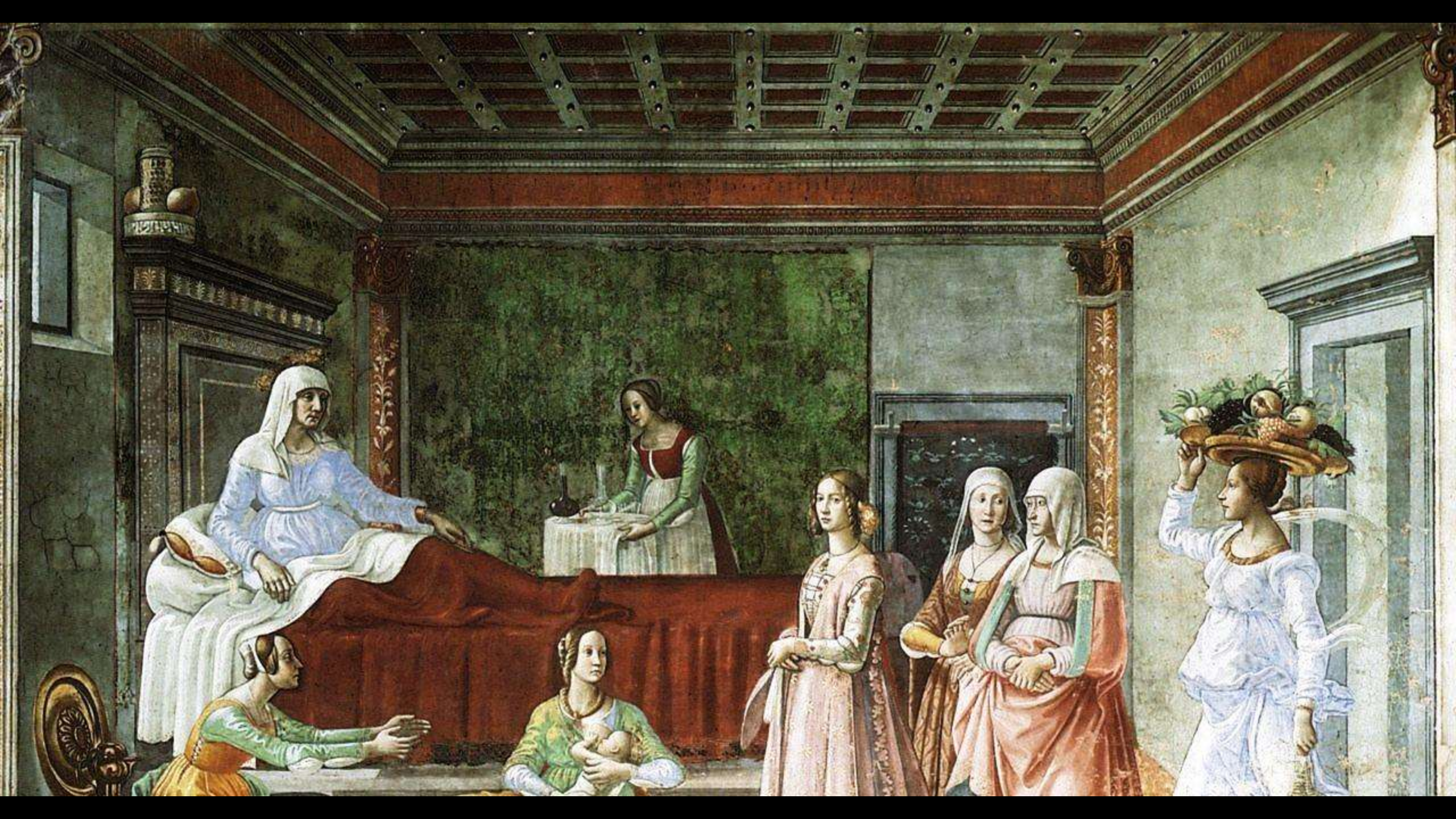
next to the window a box, a vase and
and

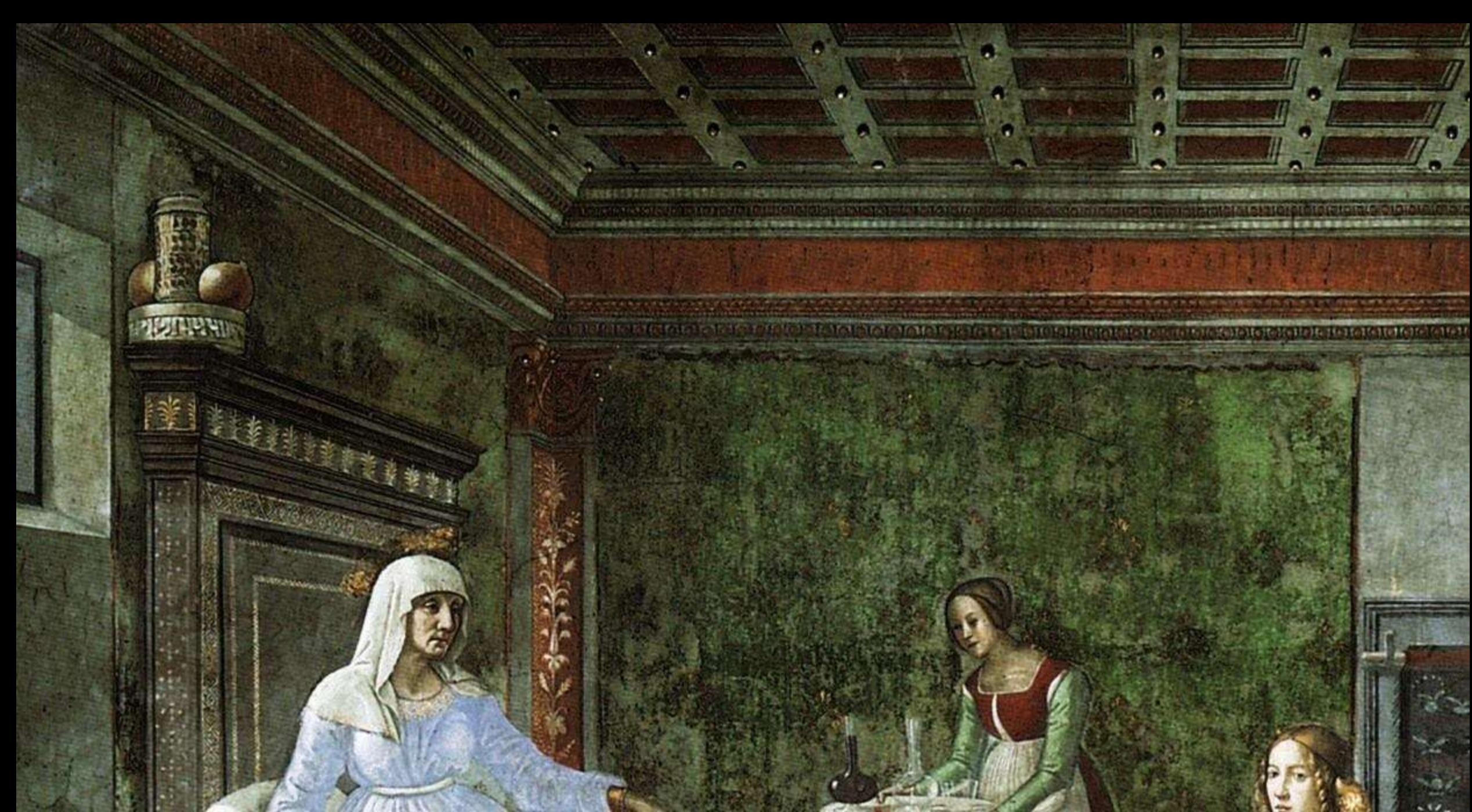
two pomegranates

(reminiscent the frescoes in the Saint
Fina Chapel)

Domenico Ghirlandaio
Birth of St. John the Baptist
Naissance de saint Jean-Baptiste
1486-1490
Cappella Tornabuoni, Santa Maria Novella,
Florence







peacock, a symbol of fertility
doves, symbols of chastity
and

the pomegranate next to the right-hand dove
is a symbolic reference to love

Vittore Carpaccio
Two Venetian Ladies
Deux Dames vénitiennes
1510
Museo Correr, Venice









a pomegranate,

a symbol of cohesion in diversity and
thus of the Holy Roman Empire

Albrecht Dürer
Portrait of Emperor Maximilian I
Portrait de l'empereur Maximilien Ier
1519
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna









the pomegranate,

an allusion to charity and inner richness

Niccolò dell'Abbate
Portrait of a young Man with Parrot and Pomegranate
Portrait de jeune homme avec perroquet et grenade
1540
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna







a pomegranate which symbolises captivity ...

Dante Gabriel Rossetti
Proserpine
Perséphone
1874
Tate Gallery, London







...che sarò, non è che gli
...mi mi donò, e non è
...e non è, e non è
...mi piange il suo
...non è, e non è
...non è, e non è



a symphony of colours ...

**a white tablecloth
and
primroses, pears and pomegranates**

**Henri Fantin-Latour
Still life (primroses, pears and pomegranates)
Nature morte (primevères, poires et grenades)
1866
The Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo**









a stone entablature

**a porcelain and gilt bronze coffee pot with
flower decorations**

two stemware

a knife

red muscat grapes and white grapes

a pear and two apples

And

**an open pomegranate masking a
pomegranate closed**

**Jean-Baptiste Siméon Chardin
Grapes and Pomegranates
Nature morte avec raisins et grenades
1763
Musée du Louvre, Paris**







... there are no words to describe the beauty and intensity of this composition, so simple, so modern, so moving



Paul Cézanne
Grenade et poires dans une
assiette
Still Life with Pomegranate and
Pears
1885-1890
Collection particulière





some fruits ...

the metaphors of loneliness,
of Courbet's sadness

Gustave Courbet
Nature morte aux fruits: pommes et
grenades
Still Life with fruits: Apples and
Pomegranates
1871
Musée d'Orsay, Paris



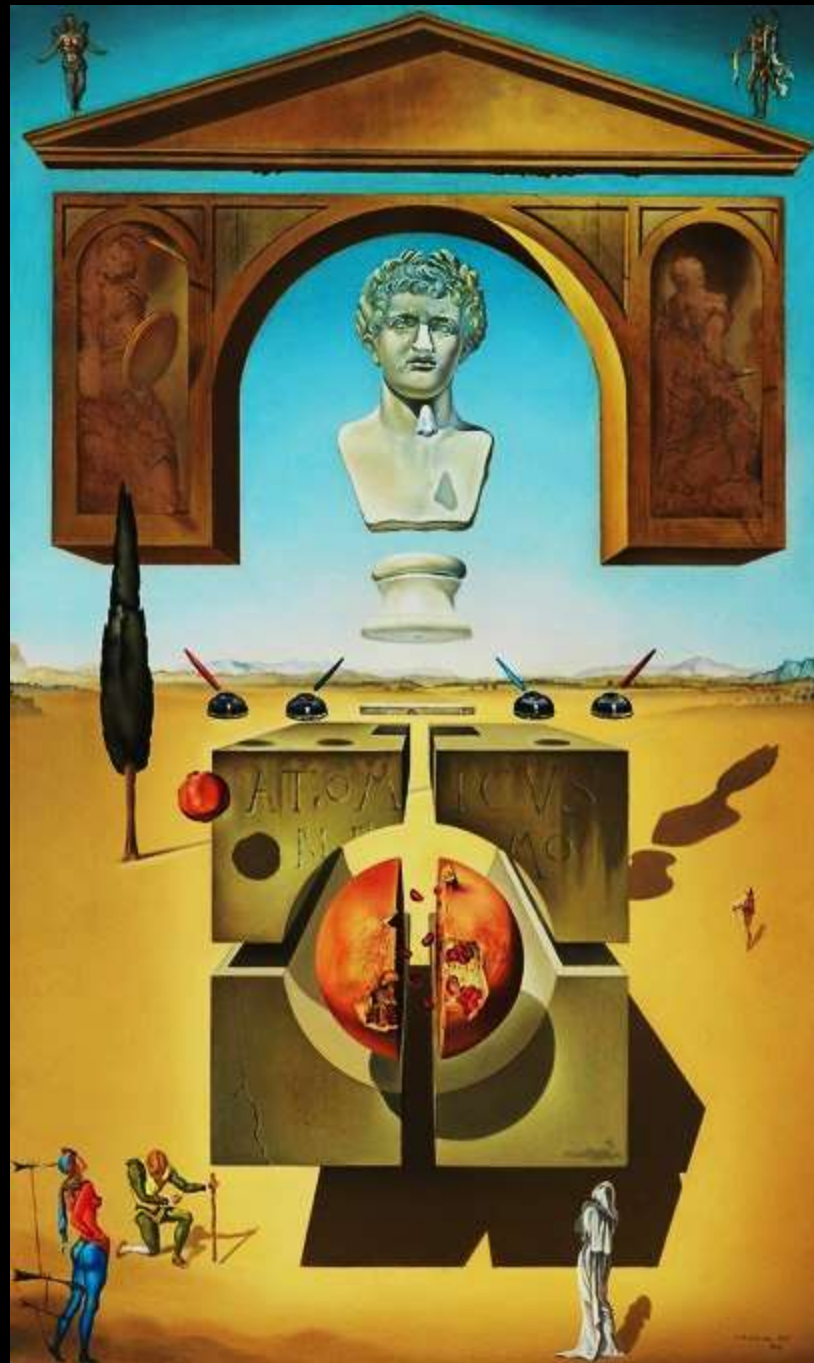


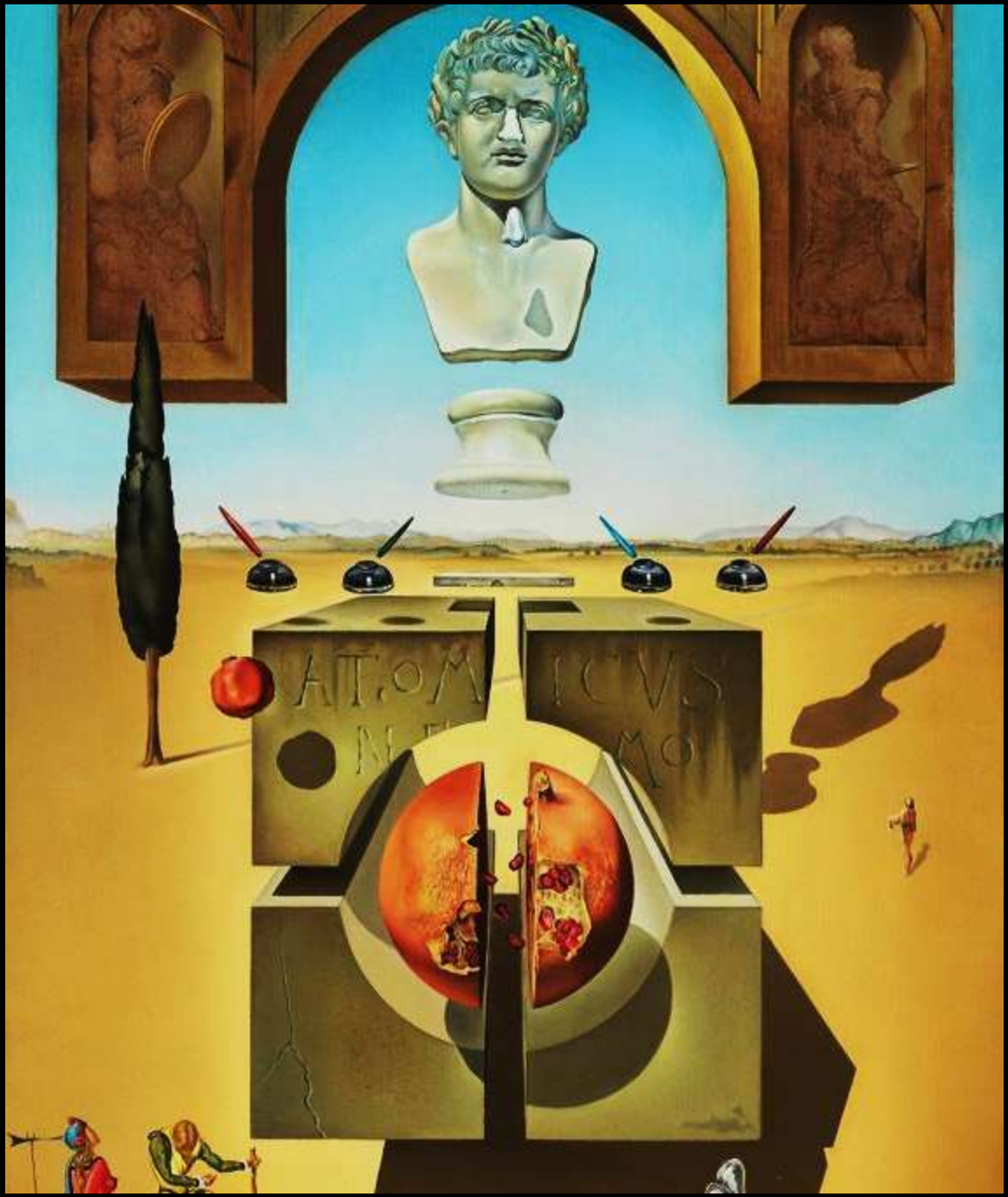


“nuclear mystical” period ...

Dali's interpretation of atomic force

Salvador Dalí
Dematerialization Near the Nose of Nero
Dématisation près du nez de Néron
1947
Dalí Theatre-Museum











two drops of water, a pomegranate and a bee

a pomegranate

a fish

two ferocious tigers

a bayonet

and

Dalí's muse

Gala's dream, prompted by the buzzing of the bee, appears in the upper part of the canvas; there, from an exploding pomegranate shoots out a fish, from whose mouth two tigers emerge together with a bayonet which, one second later, will wake Gala from her restful sleep

Salvador Dalí

Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening or Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee

Rêve causé par le vol d'une abeille autour d'une grenade, une seconde avant l'éveil

1944

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, Madrid







GALA
SALVADOR DALÍ







Fruit in Western Painting

A apple, a peach, a golden pear, a juicy strawberry, an pomegranate ...

for painters of Byzantine, Gothic, Northern Renaissance and Italian Renaissance periods, fruit was part of a rich visual language.

Art-works exhibited in public, mostly in churches, were a stern proclamation that everyone could readily understand.

Throughout Western history these paintings with their symbolism, have been used as guides in illuminating the divine mysteries of the faith.