

# BENOZZO GOZZOLI

## AND THE FRESCO PAINTING

Benozzo Gozzoli was a popular painter, born and raised in Florence many years ago during the Italian **RENAISSANCE**.



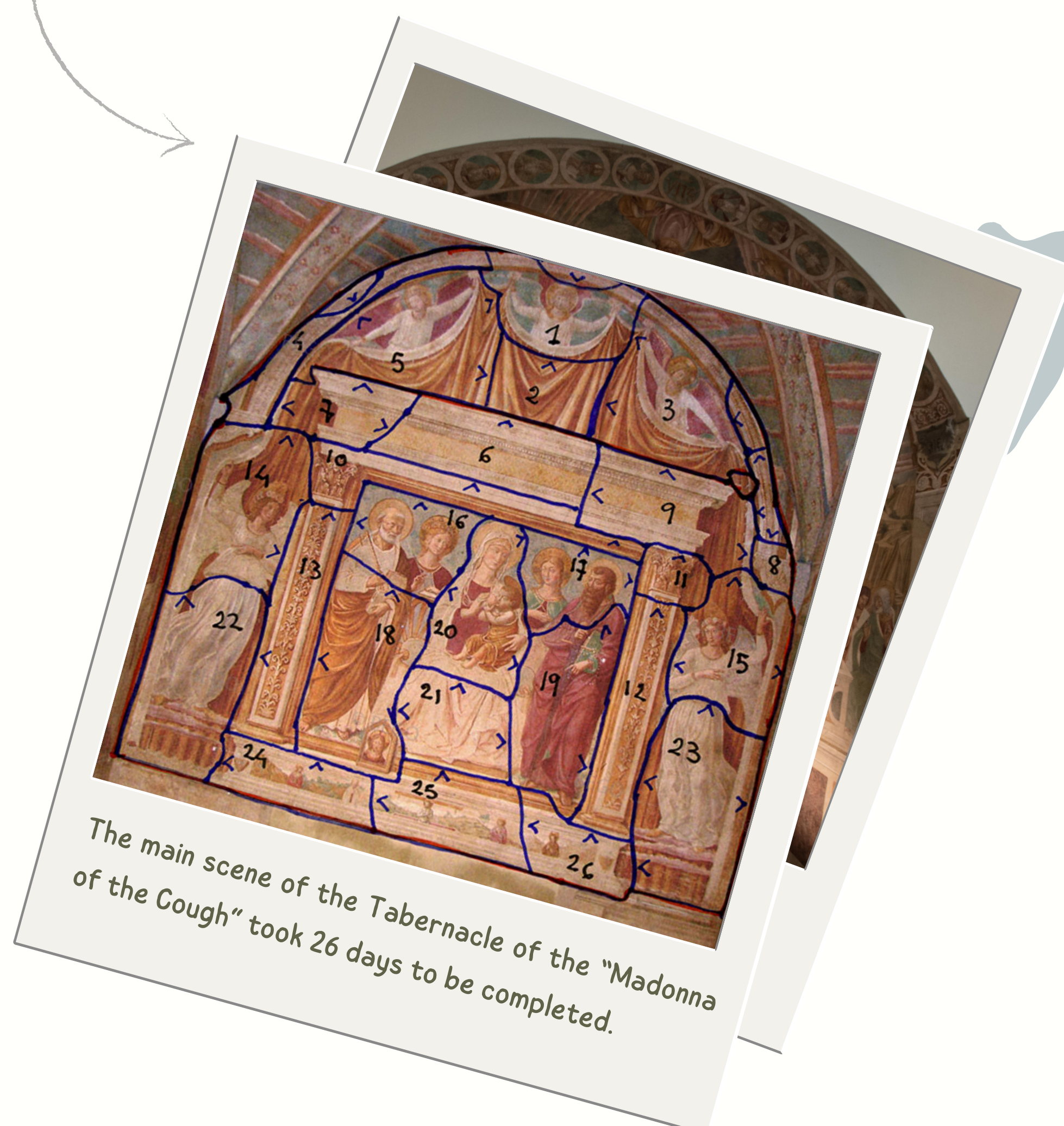
Follow up and research the Renaissance on the timeline

Benozzo Gozzoli is well known for his capacity to master the **fresco technique**, that is why he has worked in numerous Italian towns such as Rome, Florence and Orvieto. The process of the fresco is quite tough since it requires to paint quickly, directly on the wall: firstly, the artist sketches the preparatory drawing, then spreads over one area a layer of plaster that must be wet (or "fresh", as the Italian term fresco suggest) while the painting colors are laid out.

The fresco painting is made gradually, piece by piece, before the plaster gets dry.



The work done during one working day is called in Italian **"Giornata"** (which means day).



Palazzo Medici Riccardi (Florence) housed another Benozzo's masterpiece named **"The Procession of the Magi"**.



Follow up!

Benozzo was married to Maddalena and they had 9 children. Among them, **Alesso and Francesco** became painter too and worked, together with their father, on our tabernacle!



# THE ARTIST'S WORKSHOP

## BENOZZO'S WORKSHOP



The only way to become an artist during the **Renaissance** time was by attending an artist's workshop (**bottega d'arte**).

If the boy had a talent for drawing or painting, he started his **apprenticeship** in the master's workshop.

## THE MAKING OF COLOURS



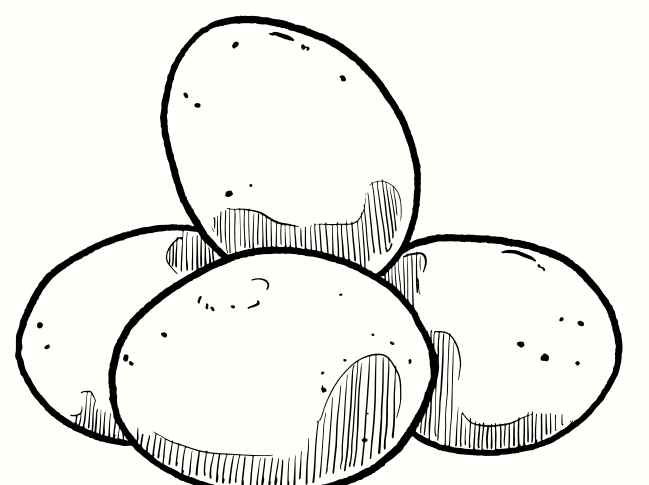
The grinding of natural pigments

mineral based

plant based



Reducing to powder of the pigments

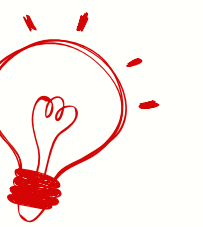


Adding the liquid part (water, oil, egg yolk)

The apprentice used to start by learning the easiest activities of the workshop, such as cleaning brushes, grinding pigments, preparing the canvases or going shopping to the "**speziale**" (Apothecary) and buying painting materials.

The apprenticeship could have lasted for even more than 10 years and at the end the artist-craftman was allowed to complete the most important master's work, achieving the "**Aiuto**" (help) qualification, the closest assistant of the master.

LOOK AROUND YOU AND FIND THE PIGMENTS!



## Follow up!

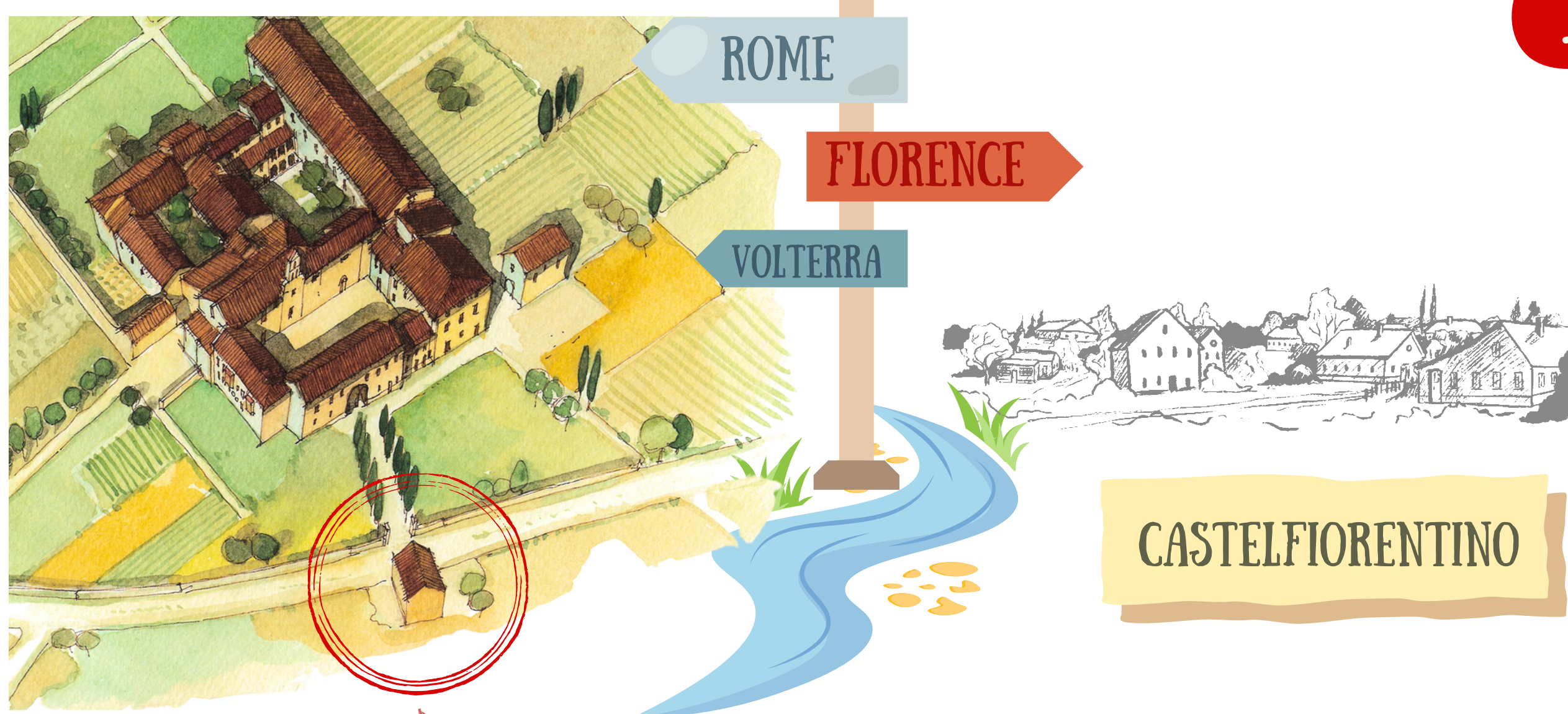
We don't know which artist's studio Benozzo attended but it is certain that he was apprenticed to the bottega of **Beato Angelico**.



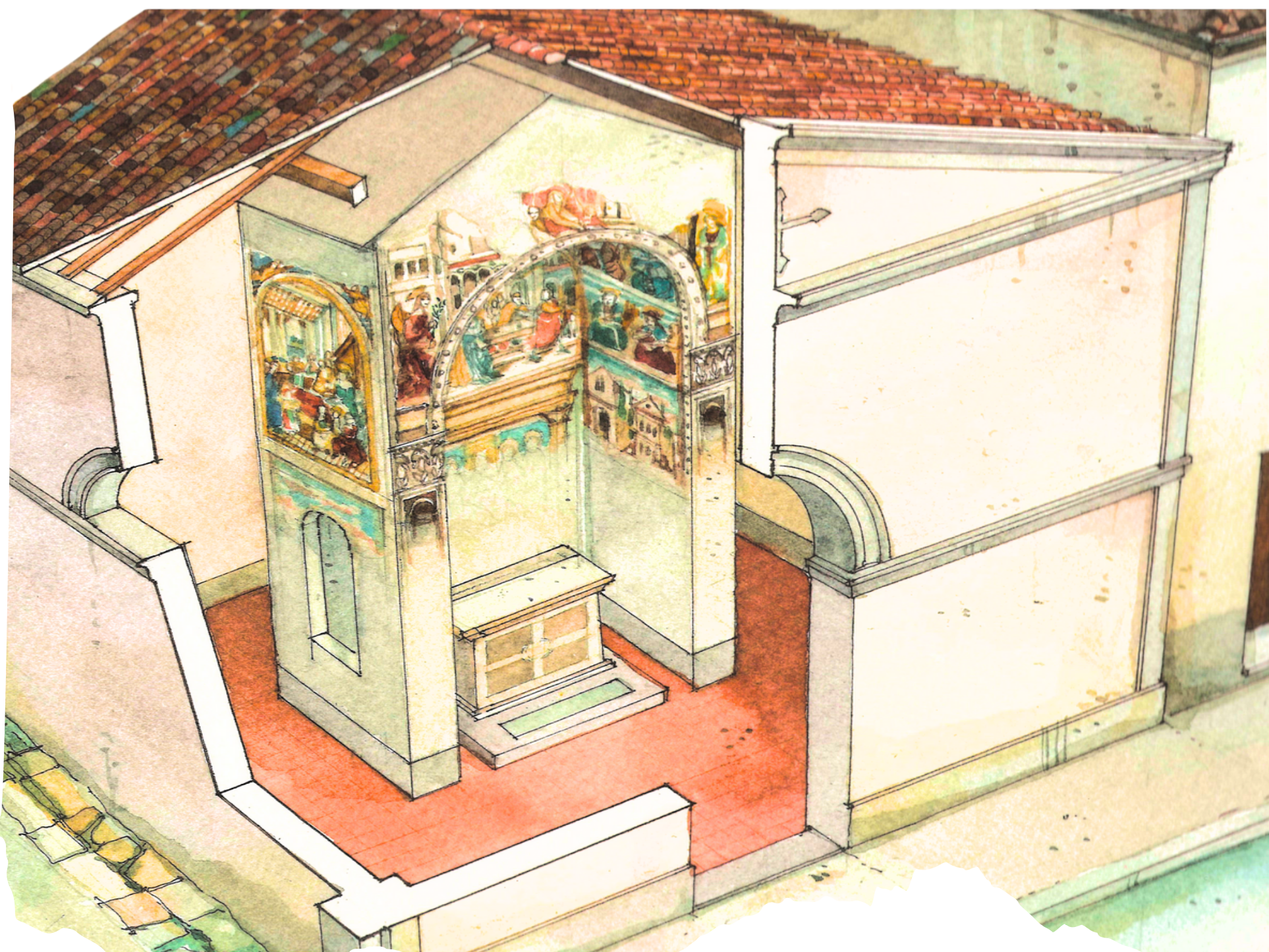
# THE TABERNACLES

## OF CASTELFIORENTINO

The Monastery of Santa Maria della Marca



The tabernacle of the Visitation during the 18th Century



The tabernacle of the Visitation - view from the inside

1 The **tabernacles** housed in the BeGo Museum were once located along the roads to Castelfiorentino, in the open air, in the middle of the country side.

They were placed so, to allow the pilgrims to stop by to pray and admire the illustrated religious stories.



Castelfiorentino has always been an important trade and travel hub along the Via Francigena.

2 As the years pass by, the continuous rains and the **Elsa river** floodings deeply damaged the frescoes.

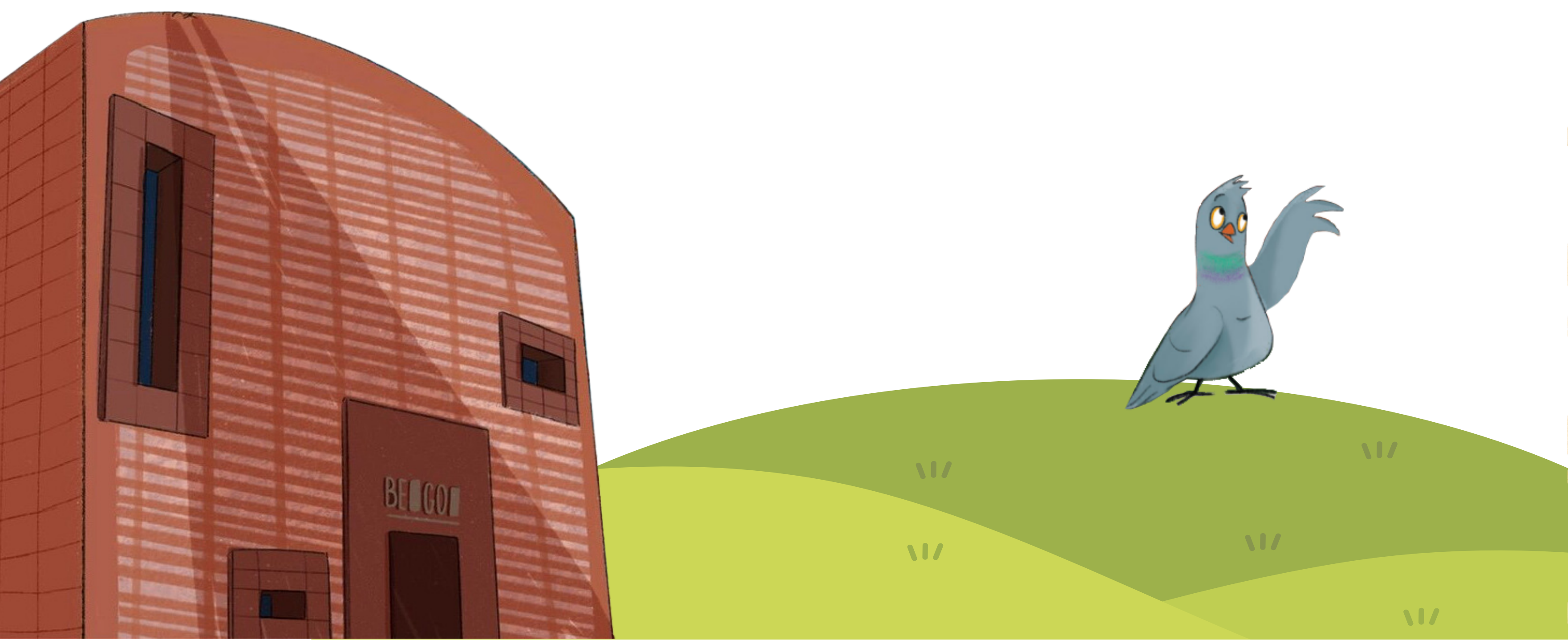
3 Despite the many efforts to rescue the frescoes, their conditions kept getting worse. The Town Council of Castelfiorentino decided in the end to **remove** them from the original walls and store them in a safe place, the Library.

In 2009 the frescoes were moved to the newly built **BeGo museum**, a place where they are preserved and showed everyday to the community.



Follow up!

The frescoes were divided into many pieces and brought into the museum passing through the window on the roof, using a **crane**.





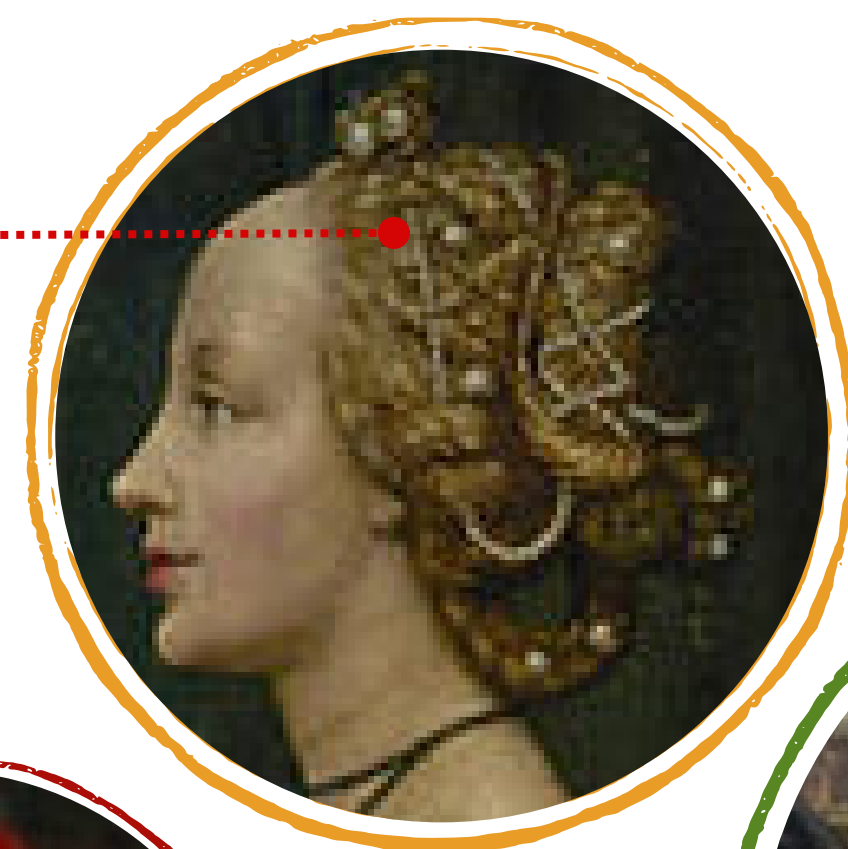
# THE RENAISSANCE

## CLOTHING

Nowadays clothes are far different from what people used to wear during the Renaissance time. For instance, men were dressed in long tights (calzebraghe) and a large tunic (casacca). The colors of the clothes communicated significant messages, so **red** and **green** could be worn only by wealthy lords and ladies.

### HAIRSTYLING

Hairstyling became a symbol of feminine beauty thanks to fancy hair braids, pearls and delicate veils.



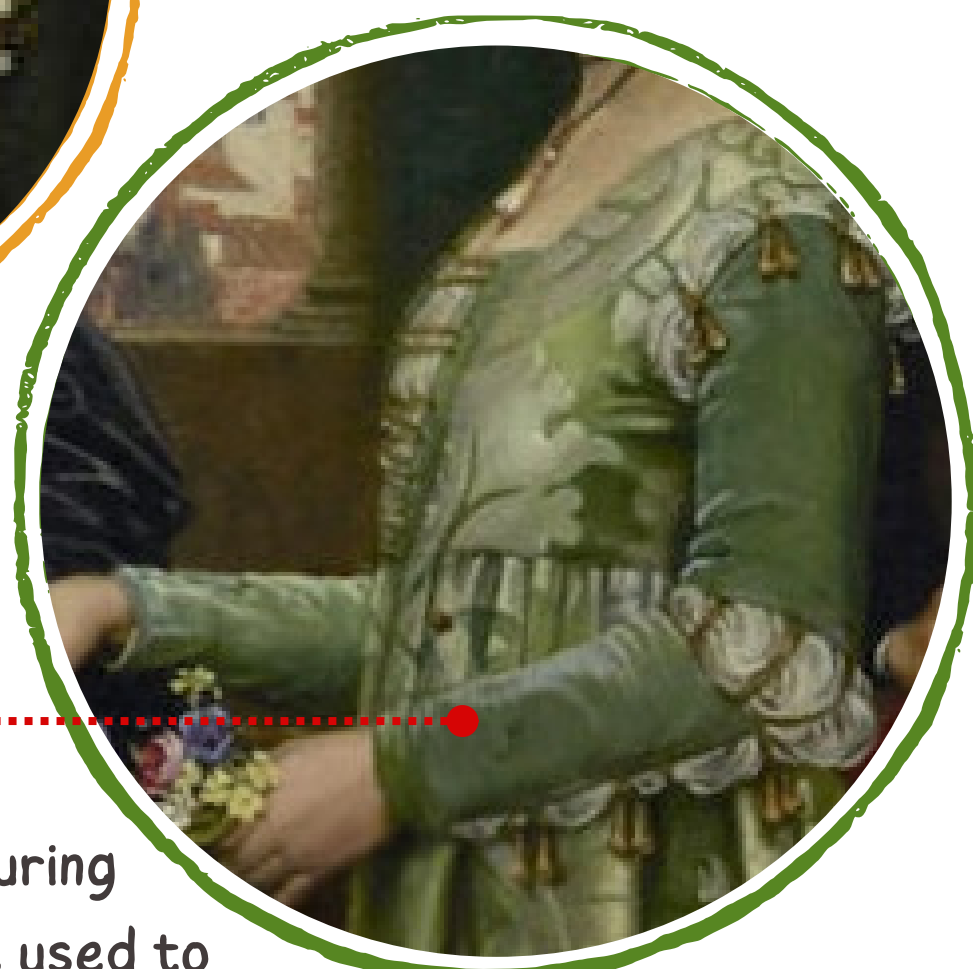
### THE RED BERE

Very fashionable at that time, the red beret hat was also worn by painters in their portraits (even Benozzo has his own in his self-portrait)



### GAMURRA

All the women during the Renaissance used to wear the gamurra, a long dress worn over a chemise.



Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale - Botticelli's studio: The first visit of Simonetta presented by Giulio and Lorenzo de' Medici - 1922



THE HOUSE OF MEDICI was a powerful family which managed the political history of Florence.

The **doublet** (farsetto) was a trendy garment for men that looked like a jacket. It was worn by adults in dark colors, as the bright ones were only for the youths. Making the black colour required an elaborate process and also money, so only wealthy people could wear it.

**Shoes** had extremely high wedge heels to prevent long skirts getting dirty, while women walked along the streets.

How about **kids**? Except for the infants (who were completely wrapped in swaddling, other than the face) grown-ups and children were dressed in the same style.

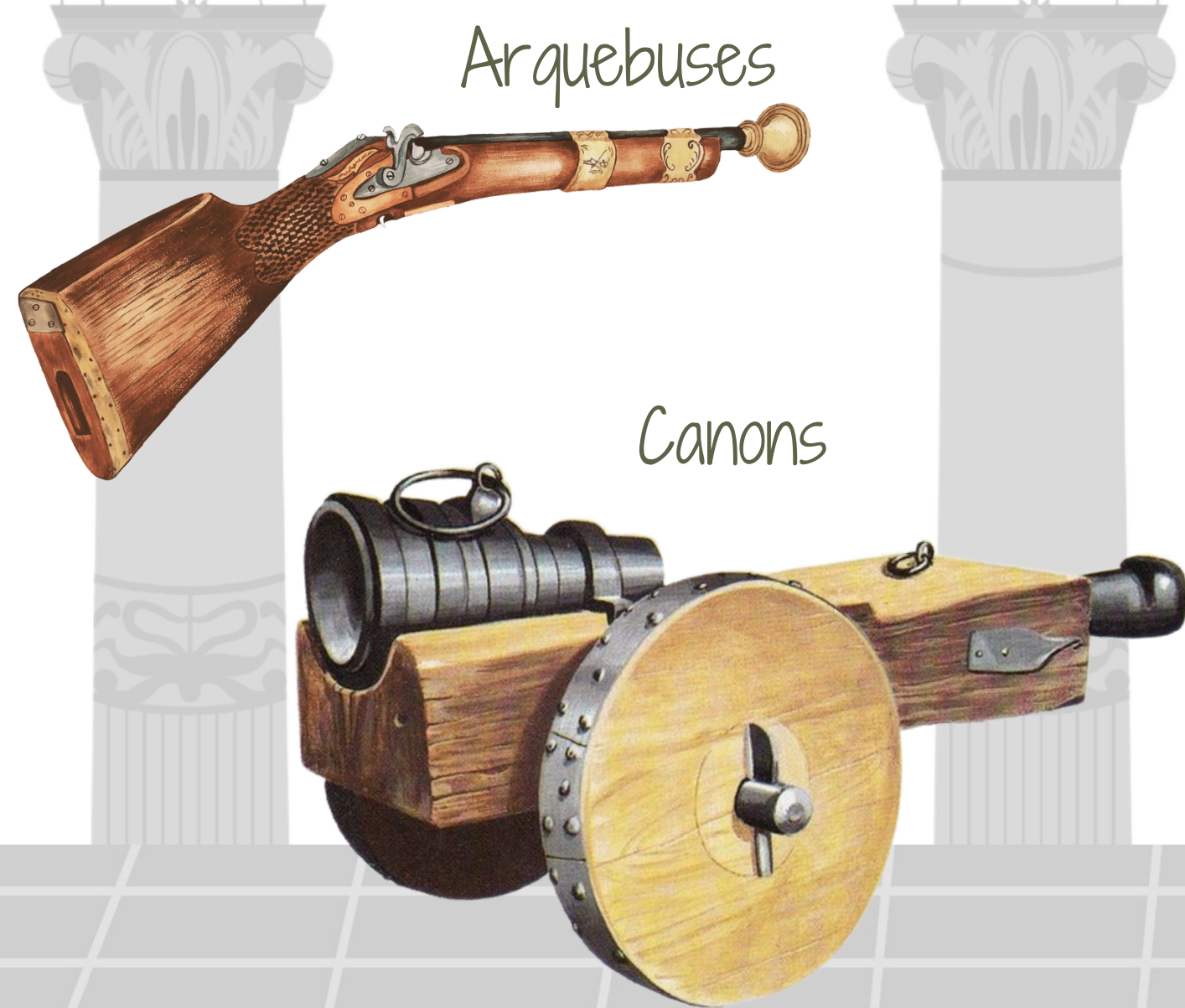




# THE RENAISSANCE

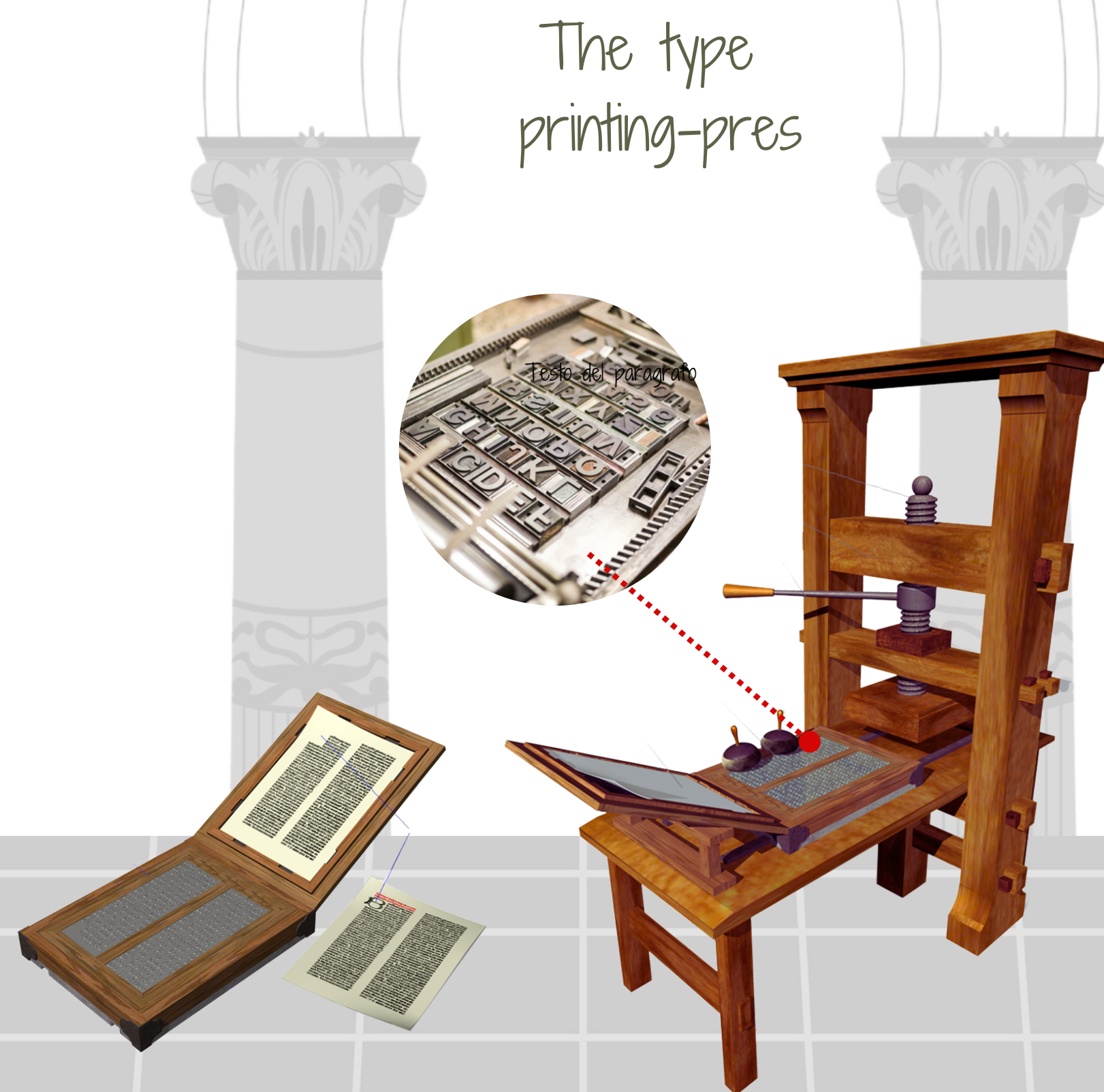
## INVENTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

### WEAPONS



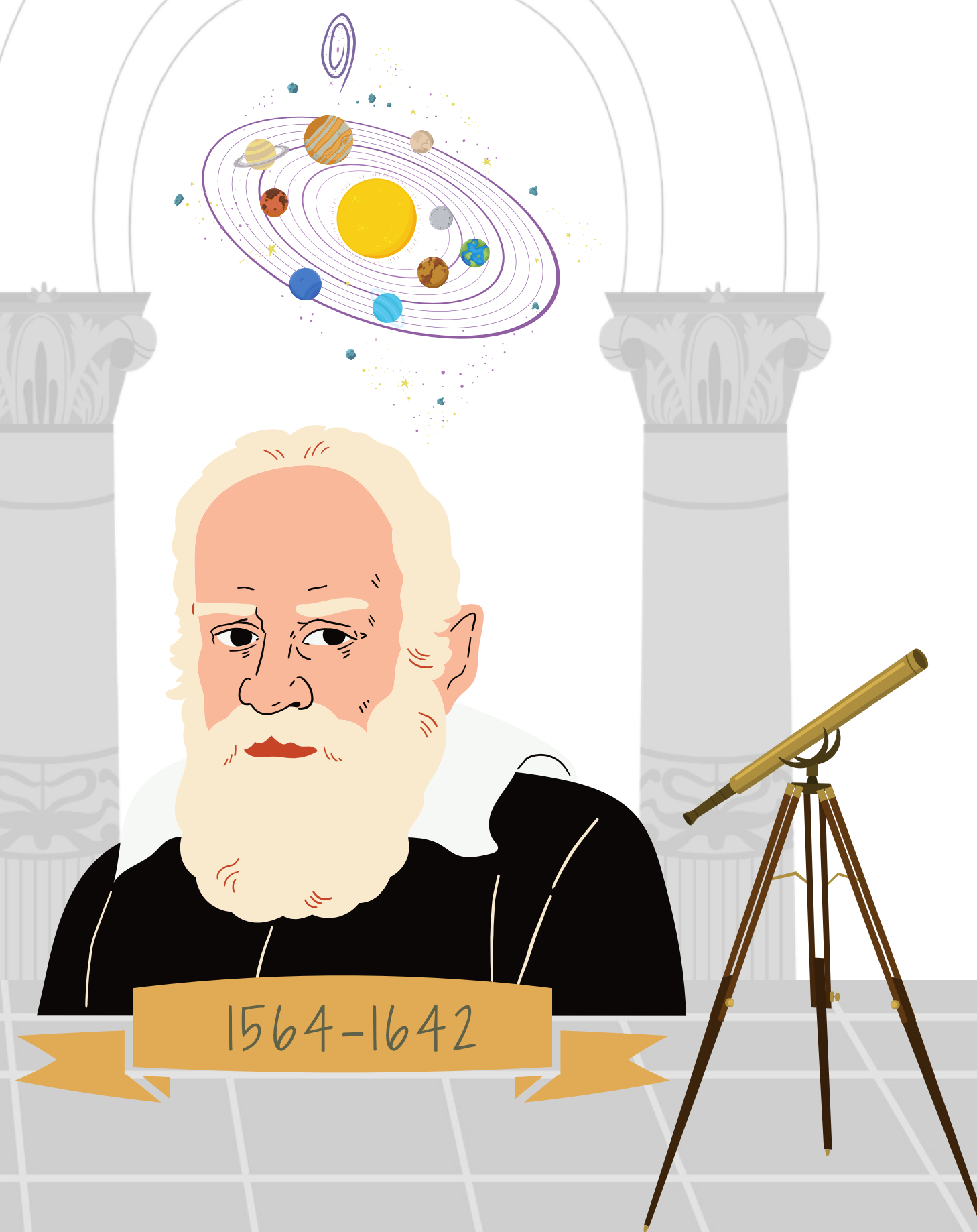
One of the most revolutionary innovation of this period was the invention of the **firearms** and their relative diffusion. The artillery (**canons** and culverins) focused on the ability to breach defensive walls and fortifications, otherwise man-portable weapons (**arquebuses** and rifles) could easily break protective suits of armour.

### THE PRINTING



Another important invention was the moveable **type printing-press** created in Germany by the **Gutenberg brothers**. This system used movable wooden blocks with the alphabetic letters handcarved in. The procedure of creating a book became far quicker (**until then, books were handwritten one after the other!**).

### ASTRONOMY



**Galileo Galilei**, physicist, mathematician and astronomer, used the **telescope** for scientific observations of celestial objects. He discovered that the Moon's surface is not as smooth as we believed, but has many craters and holes! Thanks to his studies, Galileo's confirmed the Copernican Heliocentrism, the astronomical model developed by Nicolaus Copernicus (**the Earth rotating daily and revolving around the Sun, not vice versa!**).

## THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

**Christopher Columbus** was born in Genoa, a town by the sea, and since he was a young lad, he had dreamed of being a sailor. Christopher desired to set foot in Asia passing through the Atlantic Ocean. So he left with 3 ships (the caravels) and after 2 long months of sailing he reached an island, thinking of being finally at his destination. Unfortunately, that wasn't the Asia. Christopher had landed in **America**.

Yes, he had made a mistake, but he had also discovered a new continent!



Why are we talking only about men here?



### Follow up!

Well, actually a long time ago women were not allowed to study! From the Renaissance, finally young ladies started getting taught in literature and music, sometimes also in science and philosophy. Women could not attend an artists studio though, that's the reason why we can't easily find female painters.