

Ricardo González García

(Santander, 1976)

Annunciation on Wildflowers, 2021

Enamel on canvas

Annunciation on Wildflowers is the piece presented by the artist Ricardo González García inspired by fragments of three selected works from the Banco Santander Collection: *The Annunciation* by El Greco, *Wildflowers* by Francisco Bores, and *The Education of the Virgin* by Alonso Cano.

In this sense, the work can be read in three blocks of information. Firstly, the announcing angel, with its printed newspaper texture, brings the news of the creation of a centre that will make art available to the public. The painting *The Annunciation* is one of the most important works in the Banco Santander Collection, and one of the last paintings by El Greco, remaining unfinished even after his death in 1614. At the end of the 19th century, the painting was divided into two parts. The central scene, depicting the Virgin and the angel, is the inspiration for this work, while the upper part, depicting an angelic concert scene, is kept in the National Gallery of Athens.

On the opposite side of the scene, we see a kind of theatrical curtain to cover something that has not yet been revealed, and which subtly refers to the cultural space that the Pereda building will become after its remodelling. To simulate this curtain, González García takes the cloak of Saint Anne in the painting *The Education of the Virgin* painted by the Granada artist Alonso Cano around 1650.

The vegetal background is inspired by the work *Wildflowers*, which belongs to a very advanced phase of Bores' white manner in which the flowers or the bowl on the table are left as ghostly traces in which colour prevails. For González García they are a symbol of the blossoming that the Pereda project will generate when it is up and running.

SELECTED WORKS FROM THE BANCO SANTANDER COLLECTION



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1. **El Greco (Domenicos Theotocopoulos)**
(Candía, Creta, Grecia, 1541 - Toledo, 1614)
Anunciación [The Annunciation], 1614
2. **Francisco Bores** (Madrid, 1898 - París, 1972)
Fleurs des champs [Wildflowers], 1961
3. **Alonso Cano** (Granada, 1601-1667)
La educación de la Virgen
[The Education of the Virgin], ca. 1650