

The Annunciation

reviewed by [Lil Copan](#) in the [December 27, 2011](#) issue



COURTESY MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY, N.Y.

When I started the work," writes video artist/photographer Eija-Liisa Ahtila, "the aim was to do a remake of the annunciation paintings with moving images to see what this powerful image in our culture would turn out to be and what it would mean in present-day Western society." The result, *The Annunciation*, is a three-channel multimedia installation exhibited at the Marian Goodman Gallery in New York. A mixture of stills of familiar paintings of the annunciation and acted scenes—with angels, a patron, donkeys, Mary, cultural Christmas snapshots and layers of angel wings—creates a layered narrative. In the 33-minute installation, Ahtila's work runs through cultural allusions and histories, moving in and through the natural and

supernatural.

—Lil Copan