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An exegetical study of the annunciation of Luke 1:26-38 through text and art

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**AN EXEGETICAL STUDY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF LUKE 1:26-38
THROUGH TEXT AND ART**

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DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

This thesis is my own work and contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any degree or diploma in any other institution. To the best of my knowledge the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

A thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Philosophy (5129) at The University of Notre Dame, Australia.

School of Philosophy and Theology, Fremantle.

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ABSTRACT

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary of Nazareth's encounter with the angel Gabriel has captured the attention and the imagination of theologians, scholars and artists for millennia, for in it the evangelist, communicates the announcement of the Incarnation of the long-promised Messiah. This exegetical study of the Annunciation through text and art examines how this good news was communicated to the first readers. Then following on from this acquired knowledge, this research seeks to discover if the understanding of the Annunciation has evolved over time by examining four artworks: two from sixteenth-century Europe and two from twentieth-century Australia. Each artwork captures a single moment of the Annunciation event but was conditioned by their historical circumstances. By examining how this narrative was communicated, and the resultant theology presented in each artwork, it is anticipated that a junction or disjunction between the articulated theology of the Church of each period will be identified.