

ÉIREANN LORSUNG
Early Flemish painting

In the disregarded foreground (beneath
patrons, awestruck, on each panel's edge),
out of sight of God's eye which rolls up
the azure gradient of our flattened sky,
careful studies of the unessential
take place: dill, borage, common daisy, mint;
little mallow, tansy, comfrey, dandelion—
the painter's hand was restless, the flowers

*say, so painted us, who toil not (neither
do we spin, but here we are); up there
the work of conversion goes on: the hand,
dove, and wheel; an apostle; a baptizer—
faithful, devoted, intelligent, wise,
the chosen people kneel. But we're the field.*