

Works of Michelangelo

MICHELANGELO DI LODOVICO BUONARROTI SIMONI

Born on 6 March 1475 in Caprese, Italy, Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet of the High Renaissance. His work was inspired by models from classical antiquity and had a lasting influence on Western art. Known mononymously as Michelangelo, his creative abilities and mastery in a range of artistic arenas define him as an archetypal Renaissance man.

Masterworks



David

1501-1504 • Carrara Marble • Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence

The masterwork definitively established Michelangelo's prominence as a sculptor of extraordinary technical skill and strength of symbolic imagination. A colossal statue portraying David as a symbol of Florentine freedom, it stands as arguably the most famous nude sculpture of all time.



The Creation of Adam

c. 1512 • Fresco • Sistine Chapel Ceiling, Vatican

One of the central images of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, The Creation of Adam is one of the best known and most reproduced works in the history of art. The nearly-touching hands have become iconic symbols of divine creation and humanity.



Pietà

1498-1499 • Marble • St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican

This sculpture depicts the Virgin Mary grieving over the body of Jesus after the Crucifixion. Michelangelo was only 24 at the time of its completion. It is the only work Michelangelo ever signed, his name appearing on Mary's sash, and was soon regarded as one of the world's great masterpieces of sculpture.



Moses

1513-1515 • Marble • San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome

Sculpted for the tomb of Pope Julius II, this powerful figure is the centerpiece of the monument located in the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli. The sculpture captures Moses with intense character and physical strength, showcasing intricate details in the beard and drapery.



The Last Judgment

1536-1541 • Fresco • Sistine Chapel, Vatican

Painted on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel, this fresco depicts the Second Coming of Christ and his Judgment of the souls. Michelangelo ignored usual artistic conventions, showing Christ as a massive, muscular figure surrounded by saints, with the dead rising from their graves to be consigned either to Heaven or Hell.



Madonna of Bruges

1503-1505 • Marble • Church of Our Lady, Bruges

Unlike other statues depicting the Virgin proudly presenting her son, here the Christ Child, restrained by his mother's clasp, is about to step off into the world. The sculpture demonstrates Michelangelo's innovative approach to traditional religious subjects.