

Michelangelo Buonarroti



<Picture of Michelangelo>

Full Name: Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni

Date of Birth: March 6, 1475

Date of Death: February 18, 1564

Place of Birth: Caprese, Republic of Florence, Italy

Place of Death: Rome, Italy

Occupation: Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, and poet

Quote:

“Beauty is the purgation of superfluities.”

- Michelangelo

Patrons of Michelangelo

Lorenzo de' Medici



Lorenzo de Medici was one of Michelangelo's powerful patrons. At that time, Lorenzo de' Medici was known for the leading patron of the arts in Florence. He provided support for many artists, including Michelangelo. Lorenzo provided financial support and even allowed Michelangelo to live in his household so that he can focus on producing artwork.

<Portrait of Lorenzo de' Medici>

Pope Julius II



Pope Julius II was one of Michelangelo's powerful patrons. He summoned Michelangelo to Rome and requested Michelangelo to design his own tomb. The project was not completed due to a quarrel between Michelangelo and Julius II, but after Julius' death, Michelangelo eventually completed a much scaled-down version of the tomb.

<Portrait of Pope Julius II>

Major Accomplishments

Characteristics of Humanism

① Painted “The Creation of Adam” on the Sistine Chapel

① Being a Renaissance man

<“The Creation of Adam” by Michelangelo>



Michelangelo painted the painting “The Creation of Adam” on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican Palace.

Michelangelo painted the scene of God breathing

life to Adam, who was to become the first man according to the Christian beliefs. Michelangelo harmonized some elements of Renaissance artworks and the religious elements in this painting.

Michelangelo was a painter, sculptor, architect, and poet. He was a well-rounded person with various kinds of talents. It is because he got a broad education on several areas. Michelangelo produced many kinds of artwork that still remains famous today. Therefore, it is clear that he had a trait of a Renaissance man.

② Seek Fame

Michelangelo worked hard to be famous. He was born to a family that was a minor nobility in Florence, but lost its patrimony and status at the time he was born. So, Michelangelo worked hard to get famous by mastering all areas, especially architecture, sculpting, and painting. For example, he tried to demonstrate a perfect and realistic figure when drawing “The Creation of Adam” or sculpting the “Statue of David”. Therefore, it is clear that Michelangelo had a trait of seeking fame.

③ Celebrate Life (Personal Achievement)

Michelangelo worked hard to show his talents to other people through his personal achievements. In his artwork, he applied some of his own techniques and unleashed his potentials. For example, he designed the iconic dome of St. Peter's Basilica by combining innovations of the 15th century and applying a new Renaissance style of the 16th century together. Therefore, he definitely shows celebrating life through personal achievements.

② Created the “Statue of David”

<“Statue of David” by Michelangelo>



Michelangelo sculpted this statue for the cathedral of Florence. He portrayed the biblical hero David, who defeated the giant biblical warrior Goliath, in the moments before battle. Michelangelo sculpted this statue in a realistic style, but he also expressed David's strength and designed the David in a graceful posture.

③ Designed the iconic dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

<Iconic dome of St. Peter's Basilica>



Michelangelo designed the iconic dome of St. Peter's Basilica. The Catholic Church commissioned him to manage this project. The internal part of the dome contains beautiful artwork in a Renaissance style.

Works Cited

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