



International Prize  
**MICHELANGELO**

## The Genius of Italy

Rome, Teatro Italia  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Curated by Francesco Severo Russo  
and Sabatino Russo



rare antique: One version claims that Michelangelo aged the statue to achieve a certain patina, and another version claims that his art dealer buried the sculpture (an "aging" method) before attempting to pass it off as an antique. Cardinal Riario of San Giorgio bought the "Cupid" sculpture, believing it as such, and demanded his money back when he discovered he'd been duped. Strangely, in the end, Riario was so impressed with Michelangelo's work that he let the artist keep the money. The cardinal even invited the artist to Rome, where Michelangelo would live and work for the rest of his life. Though Michelangelo's brilliant mind and copious talents earned him the regard and patronage of the wealthy and powerful men of Italy, he had his share of detractors. He had a contentious personality and quick temper, which led to fractious relationships, often with his superiors. This not only got Michelangelo into trouble, it

created a pervasive dissatisfaction for the painter, who constantly strived for perfection but was unable to compromise. He sometimes fell into spells of melancholy, which were recorded in many of his literary works: "I am here in great distress and with great physical strain, and have no friends of any kind, nor do I want them; and I do not have enough time to eat as much as I need; my joy and my sorrowful repose are these discomforts," he once wrote. In his youth, Michelangelo had taunted a fellow student, and received a blow on the nose that disfigured him for life. Over the years, he suffered increasing infirmities from the rigors of his work; in one of his poems, he documented the tremendous physical strain that he endured by painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Political strife in his beloved Florence also gnawed at him, but his most notable enemy was with fellow Florentine artist Leonardo da Vinci, who was more than 20 years his senior. Michelangelo's poetic impulse, which had been expressed in his sculptures, paintings and architecture, began taking literary form in his later years. Although he never married, Michelangelo was devoted to a pious and noble widow named Vittoria Colonna, the subject and recipient of many of his more than 300 poems and sonnets. Their friendship remained a great solace to Michelangelo until Colonna's death in 1547. Michelangelo died on February 18, 1564 — just weeks before his 60th birthday — at his home in Macel de'Corvi, Rome, following a brief illness. A nephew bore his body back to Florence, where he was revered by the public as the "father and master of all the arts." He was laid to rest at the Basilica di Santa Croce — his chosen place of burial.

### ART MAKES FREE TO EXPRESS YOUR SELF AND SPREAD YOUR EMOTIONS.

Rome, the capital of Italy, is a large cosmopolitan city with an artistic, architectural and cultural history that has influenced the whole world and dates back almost 3000 years. Ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum testify to the power of the ancient Roman Empire. In Vatican City, the seat of the Catholic Church, there are St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, which house masterpieces such as the Sistine Chapel frescoed by Michelangelo.



Rome, Theater Italy

In the heart of the Nomentano district stands the period structure of the Theater Italy (Teatro Italia), inaugurated in October 1930 with a concert by Pjetro Mascagni. Since 2006, the space has hosted performances of all genres: from prose to dance, from concerts to musicals, from experimentation to language theatre. The structure has an 800-seat hall divided as follows: Platea 498, I Balconata 173, II Balconata 141. Among the many international shows hosted, we mention: "The Nutcracker" the famous work by Caikoski, interpreted by "The Classic Ballet of Kiev", "Nico Buoni and Roma Gospel Voices", "Ariadmusica" with the Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi, the musical "Love Story Transylvania", Company of Arts with the musical "Cinderella", "Swan Lake" ballet with original music by P.I. Tchaikovsky, as well as works such as: "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, "Le Nozze di Figaro" and "Don Giovanni" by Mozart and "Carmen" by Bizet and many others.



Michelangelo is widely regarded as the most famous artist of the Italian Renaissance. Among his works are the "David" and "Pieta" statues and the Sistine Chapel frescoes.

Painter, sculptor, architect and poet Michelangelo Buonarroti is considered one of the most talented artists of the Italian Renaissance, with works including the "David" and "Pieta" statues and the ceiling paintings of Rome's Sistine Chapel, including the "Last Judgment".

Born to a family of moderate means in the banking business, Michelangelo became an apprentice to a painter before studying in the sculpture gardens of the powerful Medici family. What followed was a remarkable career as an artist, recognized in his own time for his artistic virtuosity.

Although he always considered himself a Florentine, Michelangelo lived most of his life in Rome, where he died at age 88.

From 1480 to 1492, Michelangelo studied classical sculpture in the palace gardens of Florentine ruler Lorenzo the Magnificent of the powerful Medici family. This extraordinary opportunity opened to him after spending only a year at Ghirlandajo's workshop, at his mentor's recommendation. This was a fertile time for Michelangelo; his years with the family permitted him access to the social elite of Florence — allowing him to study under the respected sculptor Bertoldo di Giovanni and exposing him to prominent poets, scholars and learned humanists. He also obtained special permission from the Catholic Church to study cadavers for insight into anatomy, though exposure to corpses had an adverse effect on his health. These combined influences laid the groundwork for what would become Michelangelo's distinctive style: a muscular precision and reality combined with an almost lyrical beauty. Two relief sculptures that survive, "Battle of the Centaurs" and "Madonna Seated on a Step," are testaments to his unique talent at the tender age of 16. Political strife in the aftermath of Lorenzo the Magnificent's death led Michelangelo to flee to Bologna, where he continued his study. He returned to Florence in 1495 to begin work as a sculptor, modeling his style after masterpieces of classical antiquity. There are several versions of an intriguing story about Michelangelo's "Cupid" sculpture, which was artificially "aged" to resemble a



The award consists in a precious customized sculpted trophy. The sculpture, representing Michelangelo is realized by Tuscan artisan, with a mix of marble dust and resins. The gliding is handmade. It's a precious craftsmanship work, with a base of black marble.

All the sculptures will be customized with the name of the artist.

International Prize  
**MICHELANGELO**

*Genius of Italy*

#### YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

- A page into the art book CONTEMPORARY Celebrity Masters Vol. IV in the section dedicated to the "International Prize Michelangelo - The Genius of Italy".
- A page into the official catalog of the event "International Prize Michelangelo - The Genius of Italy".
- Conferment of the "International Prize - International Prize Michelangelo - The Genius of Italy" (precious customized sculpted trophy - handmade by skilled Florentine artisans).
- A copy of the art book CONTEMPORARY Celebrity Masters Vol. IV.
- A copy of the catalog "International Prize Michelangelo - The Genius of Italy".
- Video EXPO the 22<sup>nd</sup> July of one artwork in the Teatro Italia.



**ERETO ARTE**  
Fondazione

**RUSSO** info: [fr.severo\\_russo@hotmail.it](mailto:fr.severo_russo@hotmail.it)  
+39 331 3790400 or +39 340 9646745



The editorial project, published by Eretto Arte Editore, will be distributed all over the world.

#### CONTEMPORARY CELEBRITY MASTERS

It is an art volume "CONTEMPORARY Celebrity Masters" which aims to select the most famous Masters of Contemporary Art, with the aim of advertising their Art. The volume will contain interviews, in-depth focuses on contemporary art and much more, supervised by the art critic and curator Sabatino Russo. We will dedicate a page to each artist with the image of the art work.

The catalog of the Michelangelo International Prize will be realized on the basis of the finest typographic rules and highest quality.

To every artist will be dedicated a whole color page.

Several copies of the catalog will be given to gallery owners, museum directors, collectors and art lovers all over the world.

