

MICHELANGELO

Michelangelo, painter, sculptor, poet, architect, Italian genius. He revolutionized the conception of wall painting with the Sistine Chapel's frescos. Invincible sculptor who, beside Donatello and Verrocchio, elevated the Italian sculpture to a spectacular level, reached only by the Greeks. He was born on March 6th, 1475 in Caprese, Florentine province. His father, Lodovico di Lionardo Buonarroto Simoni, was a violent man, faithful to God. His mother, Francesca di Neri di Miniato del Sera died when Michelangelo was six years old. They were five brothers: Leonardo, Michelangelo, Buonarroto, João Simão and Sigismundo.

Michelangelo was delivered to the cares of a wet nurse whose husband was a marble cutter from the neighboring village of Settignano. Later, joking, Michelangelo will attribute to this fact his vocation of sculptor. A joke or not, the right is that at school he filled his exercise notebooks with drawings, totally uninterested about the lessons about other subjects. Because of that, more than once he was beaten by his uncles, to whom seemed to be embarrassing to have an artist in the family, exactly because the family came from an old and aristocratic Florentine lineage, mentioned on the local chronicles since the century XII. And the family pride will never abandon Michelangelo. He will prefer any title, even the most honorable, the high simplicity of his name: "I'm not the sculptor Michelangelo. I'm Michelangelo Buonarroto". At 13, his obstination beats his father's. He enters, as an apprentice, the Domenico Ghirlandaio studio, already considered a master of painting in Florence. But the learning is brief, about a year, because Michelangelo gets annoyed with the teaching rhythm, which seems slow and besides, considers the painting a limited art. What he looks for is wider and monumental expression, it is said that the reason of the young man's leaving was something else. His first works revealed to be so good that the teacher, because of jealousy, preferred to put the student aside. However no evidence confirms this version.

Like great part of the painters and sculptors of the time, Michelangelo started his artistic career being an apprentice of a great arts master. His master, who taught him the artistic techniques, was Domenico Ghirlandaio. After observing the talent of the young apprentice, Ghirlandaio sent him to the city of Florence, to learn from Lorenzo de Médici. At Lorenzo de Médici's School, Michelangelo stayed for 2 years (1490 to 1492). In Florence, received artistic influences from several painters, sculptors and intellectuals of the time, since the city was a great center of cultural production.

He went to live in Bologna in 1492, right after Lorenzo's death. He stayed in this city for four years, since in 1496 received an invitation of the Cardinal San Giorgio to live in Rome. San Giorgio had gotten admired with the Marble sculpture "Cupid", which he had bought from the artist. At this time, he created two important works, with a great influence from Greek-roman culture: The Pietá and Baco. When he returned to Florence in 1501, creates two other important works: Davi and the painting Holy Family.

In 1503, the artist received a new invitation from Rome, Julio II. He was summoned to make the pope grave, work he never finished, because he was interrupted by other calls and tasks. Between 1508 and 1512 he painted the ceiling of Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, being commissioned by Leo X for that reason. In the period he also worked in the reconstruction of the interior of the Saint Lawrence church in Florence.

Between 1534 and 1541 he worked on the painting of the Last Judgement, by the window of the Sistine Chapel altar. In 1547 he was indicated as the official architect of the Saint Peter basilica in the Vatican.

He died on February 18th, 1574, at 89 in Rome. Until today he is considered one of the most talented artists of all times, along with others of his time, like Leonardo da Vinci, Rafael Sanzio, Donatello and Giotto di Bondone.

Two of his most famous paintings (The Pietá and David) were made before he was thirty. Although his little affection to painting, created two historic works: the scenes of the Genesis, in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and The Final Judgement, also in the same place. He also projected the dome of the Saint Peter basilica, in Rome. Among other sculptures, the Virgin, The Baco, The Moses, The Rachel and members of the Médici family can be considered

