

Donatello

Source: kiddle.co & donatello.net

Introduction: (Donato di Niccolò di Betto Bardi, c. 1386 – 13 December 1466) was an **Italian sculptor** during the **Renaissance**. He lived in **Florence**. He worked in stone, **bronze**, wood, **clay**, and **wax** with several assistants. His reputation as a great artist was stated by **Vasari**, and has always stood well. He worked in **Rome**, **Sienna** and **Padua** as well as Florence, and worked for the Church, for **Cosimo de' Medici**, and for various city authorities.



History: He was the son of Niccolo di Betto Bardi, and was born in Florence. His mother's name is not known. When Donatello was older, he studied with Filippo Brunelleschi, the architect. He also helped the sculptor Lorenzo Ghiberti to make statues for the Battistero di San Giovanni.



David

Art: Donatello's work was inspired by ancient sculpture. He was the first sculptor of his time to celebrate the human body, an idea that had died out after Greek and Roman times. His life-size statue of David is his best-known work. The David is the first known free-standing nude statue made since antiquity. Much of his work was done for

display in grand churches. Between 1415 and 1426, he made five statues for the Florence Cathedral, also known as the Duomo.

Donatello was a realist: an artist whose sculpture showed the subjects as real people. Naturalism and the showing of human feelings are his influences.



Judith and Holofernes

Other works: Donatello did not confine himself to stone and metal as media for his sculptures. He produced a carved wood statue, Penitent Magdalene, around 1450, for the Baptistery of Florence. The statue was groundbreaking in Renaissance Christian art for its realism and the unique vision of Mary Magdalene as one who is wasted away from fasting rather than healthy and beautiful as she appears in earlier art.

Contrary to today's conception of the starving artist, Donatello enjoyed fame, acclaim and financial success during his lifetime. While this is largely due to his own talent, artistic vision, and love of innovation, his close relationship with the Medici family didn't hurt, providing him with a reliable source of commissions.

Despite being a celebrated artist of his day, Donatello was not generally well-liked as a person. He was known to destroy a sculpture sooner than allowing someone he didn't approve of to buy it. He highly valued his artistic freedom, and he earned a reputation in society for being abrasive. Under the protection of the Medici family, the artist did not have to worry about the repercussions of his antisocial behavior.



Equestrian Statue of Gattamelata