

High Copy no 6 MICHELANGELO

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (Florence 1475 – 1564 Rome)

MEDICI MADONNA

c 1521 – 1534



Height 22" | Width 13" | Depth 16"

Medium: Cast Marble

Limited Edition of 500 plus 12 foundry proofs



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The Medici Madonna is in the funerary chapel designed for the Medici dynasty in the Church of San Lorenzo in Florence. It was made for the chapel in which Giuliano and Lorenzo Medici would be buried and represented in stone by Michelangelo. The Medici Chapels are homage to one of the most influential families in the patronage of the arts and the Italian Renaissance. This posthumous Medici Madonna is a precise 1:1 casting that is faithful to Michelangelo's original.



Like many of his depictions of the Madonna and Christ Child, the Virgin seems to gaze into nothingness as to show her spiritual remoteness, "as if sobered by the prospect of her child's future suffering." In several depictions this gaze, as if not recognizing the Christ Child or the viewer is something Michelangelo would do in some of his most poignant depictions of this holy subject.



Tolnay goes onto describe the compositional aspects of the Medici Madonna and Child:

"The Medici Virgin is placed opposite the altar and is the core of the composition of the Chapel. She is seated on a tall, narrow block, with only one of her feet touching the ground, which gives her being a strange lightness. Mother and Son seem to be one single being, embodying a striking image of the cyclic idea of life: eternally exhausted and eternally renewed."

Michelangelo would start on the work for the Medici Tombs in 1521, and would be commissioned by Cardinal Giulio de Medici, with support from his brother Pope Leo X. The history of the tomb project goes back to Cosimo de Medici, as he was the grandfather of the Medici family.

The Medici Madonna and Child can be seen in the New Sacristy of San Lorenzo, the church dedicated to the Medici Legacy, in Florence.



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