

Michelangelo
MICHELANGELO

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

BRUGES MADONNA
WITH CHILD

c1501 – 1504



Height 49" | Width 24" | Depth 28"

Medium: Cast Marble

Limited Edition of 100 plus 12 foundry proofs



ARTE DIVINE™



WWW.ARTEDIVINE.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OTHER
MICHELANGELO SCULPTURES:
855.326.4767



MEMBER

PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN
THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

The Bruges Madonna followed Michelangelo's St. Peter's Pietà by only five years. In both of these important sculptures, the Virgin Mary's face is noticeably young and beautiful. The two works of art, however, underscore different qualities. In the Pietà, Mary appears as a delicate maiden; in the Bruges Madonna, she is portrayed with the dignity of the Queen of Heaven. This posthumous Bruges Madonna is a precise 1:1 casting that is faithful to Michelangelo's original.



The Madonna is seated upright, as if enthroned. The two figures face directly forward. According to an ancient Christian iconography, the Child is positioned in front of his mother's womb in order to evoke her title as the Mater Dei, Mother of God. When the Madonna is enthroned on high, tradition holds that she embodies the Seat of Wisdom, the Sede Sapientiae. The Divine Wisdom of God was a favorite theme of Renaissance Christianity.



Georg Brandes writes:

"Michelangelo sought to express his notion of the sublime by making the figure utterly devoid of passion. Without looking at anyone- neither at her son nor at the people-she exhibits the child crown prince to her subjects with the unswerving poise of a born ruler. In the face of neither mother nor son is there even a trace of smile or of the slightest awareness of the worshipful congregation. They are enthroned on high and look downward before them, where ordinary mortals must be thought to dwell."

Twice, the Bruges Madonna with Child has attracted the attention of foreign invaders. During the Napoleonic Invasions, the French included the Bruges Madonna with Child in its wagon trains of war plunder destined for Paris. The piece was restored to its home in 1815. In 1945, as the Allies advanced to liberate Belgium, the Nazis fleeing Belgium took the sculpture with them. Its whereabouts were unknown until its discovery in the Austrian salt mines where the Nazi's stolen art had been secretly stored.

The Bruges Madonna with Child now sits in the Church of Our Lady in Bruges, Belgium.



ARTEDIVINE™

For information: www.artedivine.com • 855.326.4767