

L3-6day6

Italian Quattrocento Sculpture

Art Discussed:

Donatello, *Gattamelata*

Donatello, *Saint Mark*

Donatello, *David*

Donatello, *Zuccone (Habbakuk)*

HW:

Find four equestrian statues in your text, list their dimensions in order of size or place a picture of each side by side, list differences.

Donatello, *Gattamelata*

- Cast in parts; triumph of bronze casting
- Idealized heroic portrait of a resolute commander
- Pulsating facial muscles, heavy arched brows
- Swelling of horse's veins
- Sense of classical revival: cf. Marcus Aurelius on parade

Donatello, *Saint Mark*

- Commissioned by the Guild of Linen Weavers and Peddlers, suggested by pillow at base and ample drapery
- Although in a Gothic niche, the statue is free standing
- Contrapposto based on Roman art
- Drapery falls directly down

- Easy posture
- Face has piercing eyes
- Calculated how the sculpture would look from street level

Donatello, *David*

- First life size nude since antiquity
- Subtle S curve of figure
- In triumph after killing Goliath, whose head is at his feet
- Black bronze has a shiny feminine quality
- Epicene quality of pose and features
- Standing self-assured, but not triumphant, as if in reverie
- Young adolescent body
- Laurel on foppish hat alludes to David's powers as a poet
- Nudity an allusion to David dancing nude in ecstasy at the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem

Donatello, *Zuccone (Habakkuk)*

- Cf. Roman Republican art
- Strong, rustic, not refined, nor idealized
- Heavy drapery sweeps your eye diagonally to head
- Fiery intensity of expression, meant to be seen by passersby in the cathedral square below
- Living out in the wilderness, looks haggard but divinely inspired
- Bald head carved roughly to enhance effect