

L4-3day3

Italian Baroque Sculpture

Art Discussed:

Bernini, *David*

Bernini, *Ecstasy of Saint Theresa*

Bernini, *Baldacchino*

Bernini, Colonnade of Saint Peter's, Rome

VOCAB:

Baldacchino

HW:

Activity sheet

Bernini, *David*

- David is energetically swinging the slingshot
- Chose not to wear his armor to fight Goliath, it is at his feet and acts as a physical support for the statue
- Harp at his feet suggests David as a poet and singer
- Said to have Bernini's likeness: intensity of expression
- Must be seen in the round, though may have been originally set against a wall
- Recalls Hellenistic Greek art
- Baroque art: figures caught in the middle of action

Bernini, *Ecstasy of Saint Theresa*

- Stage-like setting
- Carved a vision by Saint Theresa of Avila
- Members of the patron family, the Cornaro, look on from theatre boxes, in conversation or are reading about the event itself
- Baroque as theatrical
- Natural light from a hidden window shines on rays and figures

- Combination of painting, sculpture and architecture
- Directed view
- Angel as sexless, Teresa in physical ecstasy, drained of all emotion
- Carved marble differently depending on the texture of the surface: clouds are rough, wings are downy, drapery is smooth, and skin has a high shine

Bernini, *Baldacchino*

- Over main altar of Saint Peter's
- 100 feet high, made of bronze
- Twisting columns inspired by Early Christian designs, corkscrew motif
- Lively ornate concept
- Symbol of the patron, the Barberini family, in the sun and bees motif on entablature
- Baroque concept of directed view: focuses your eyes down the main aisle of Saint Peter's and acts as a frame for the Cathedra Petri, which though later in date, was likely planned already
- Bronze taken from the Pantheon: paganism transformed into Christianity

Bernini, Colonnade of Saint Peter's, Rome

- Plaza holds half million people, 284 columns, 4 rows, 140 statues
- Church in a congested area of Rome, Bernini wanted an open area to overwhelm visitors entering it through the four-deep colonnade with light and space
- Tuscan Doric columns with classical temple front
- Curving Baroque shape of colonnade
- Forms the shape of two arms bringing people into the Church
- Also the shape of a skeleton keyhole, symbolic of Saint Peter who holds the keys to the kingdom