

## CHARACTERS | Sculptors

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Alessandro Algardi (1598–1654) – an unsung master of baroque art

# Alessandro Algardi (1598–1654) – an unsung master of baroque art



Alessandro Algardi, bust of Benedetto Pamphilj, Galleria Doria Pamphilj



He came from Bologna to Rome in 1625. However, his real career began when he was entrusted with working in the Basilica of St. Peter (San Pietro in Vaticano) over the tombstone of Pope Leo XI of the Medici family. It was then that he showed his artistic abilities. The tombstone was completed in 1644, the same year **Innocent X** became pope . It was a lucky choice for Algardi, because the new ruler of the Papal States looked unfavorably at the then star, **Gian Lorenzo Bernini , favored by Urban VIII** , who was hated by Innocent . The new pope found his trusted artist in Bologna. He entrusted him with work on his own busts or those of his sister-in-law ( **Olympia Mairalchini** ), but also with more significant, prestigious orders. At the court **of** Innocent

Algardi maintained a very large studio and educated many students who, in the last period of his life, were the main contractors of his projects, also because his excessive weight did not allow him to work independently.

## The most important works in Rome:

### Galleria Doria Pamphilj

- Bust of Innocent X
- Bust of Olimpia Mairalchini
- Bust of Benedetto Pamphilj

### Musei Capitolini (Capitoline Museums)

- Statue of Innocent X (1646) made of bronze, showing the enthroned pope

### Church of San Silvestro al Quirinale

- Statue of Mary Magdalene (1629)

### Church of **Santa Maria del Popolo**

- Bust of Cardinal Giovanni Garzia Mellini (1638)
- Saint's pedestal Philip Nereus with an angel (1638), marble relief *The Miracle of St. Agnes* (1654)

### Church of **San Marcello al Corso**

- Busts of members of the Frangipani family

### Basilica of San Pietro in Vaticano

- **Tombstone of Pope Leo XI** (1644) – with a seated figure of the Pope accompanied by the personification of virtues
- Funerary relief in the altar of Pope **Leo I** - *Meeting of Pope Leo with Attila* (1646). With this work, the artist created a new genre competing with both sculpture and painting - a marble, almost fully plastic relief.

### Church of **Sant'Ignazio**

- Dedicatory inscription with accompanying angels above the entrance to the church (inside)

### Church of **San Nicola da Tolentino**

- Altar design with a depiction of St. Nicholas of Tolentino (1651), made by Algardi's students

### Church of Santa Maria dell'Anima

- Grave bust of Giovanni Savenier in the chapel of St. Anna



Alessandro Algardi, funerary monument of Pope Leo XI, Basilica of San Pietro in Vaticano



Alessandro Algardi, bust of Pope Innocent X, Galleria Doria Pamphilj

You may also be interested in:

Domenico Guidi (1625–1701) - or...

Pope Innocent X (1574–1655) -...

Church of San Marcello al Corso...



Olimpia Mairalchini (1591–1657) - over...

Church of San Nicola da Tolentino...

Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1599–1680) -...

Casino di Villa Doria Pamphilj - a symbol of social status and a tool of inter-ethnic rivalries