

Guillaume Berthelot

Birth	1583 Paris
Death	June 30, 1648 Paris
Activity	Sculptor
Work places	Rome, Paris
patrons	Paul V, Marie de Medici

Guillaume Berthelot or Bertelot (born in Paris in 1583, died in the same city on June 30, 1648), is a French sculptor, active in Rome at the court of Paul V Borghese, and in Paris in the service of Marie de Medici and the cardinal of Richelieu.

He went to Rome at the age of 25, where he received several commissions from Pope Paul V Borghese: a virgin with a colossal child for the column erected on the forecourt of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, and two bronze angels for the Pauline Chapel inside the basilica, as well as a Saint Paul for the lodge of Urban VIII at the Quirinal Palace (and an angel for the Scala Regia of the palace), and a Crucifix for the high altar of the Santa church Maria in Vallicella. He also participates in the restoration of the famous Gladiator Borghese , recently discovered.

Returning to France in August 1618, he was appointed sculptor of Queen Mother Marie de Medici in 1620. He is employed by the queen-mother and by Richelieu on the main decorative projects of the time, thanks to the support of the queen-mother (like many artists, he lodges in a court of the Palace of Luxembourg until 1642, before to settle on rue Férou) and to the friendship of architect Jacques Lemercier (who is a witness at his wedding in 1625). In 1622 , Marie de Medicis entrusted him with the execution of 8 sculptures for the dome of the entrance pavilion of the Palais. The program, initially oriented towards the representation of the great queens of History (Olympias, Livia, Berthe with great feet, Blanche of Castile ...) is subsequently modified in favor of figures of allegorical virtues. Berthelot finally sculpts Justice , Charity , Prudence , Wisdom , Strength , Abundance , Temperance , and Faith . He then sculpts four "Muses" for the facade of the main courtyard: Astronomy , Lyrical Poetry , Eloquence and History . He also sculpted four statues in 1625, including La Force and La Prayer (Leves, Aligre Hospital), and Silence (Paris, Jardins du Luxembourg) for the Queen Mother's Chapel. He carved Apostles and Evangelists for the church of the Sorbonne. In 1626, he sculpts a first effigy of Louis XIII in March, commissioned by Richelieu for the castle of Limours, then a second in 1635, for the entrance of the castle of Richelieu, surmounted by a statue of La Renommée in bronze.

In 1624, he was also commissioned to make the bronze ornaments (including two gilded bronze angels) for the high altar of the Carmelites of the Annunciation, Notre-Dame-des-Champs in Paris, under the direction of Jacques Lemercier . He is also credited with the marble bust of Gaston d'Orléans preserved in the Louvre.

Berthelot is also used for funerary sculpture works. Claude de Cassillac ordered the tomb of her husband Charles de Choiseul-Praslin (died in 1626) for the cathedral of Troyes (1628, Troyes, Museum of Fine Arts). He realized in 1633 the prayer of Jean-Baptiste Legoux of Berchère and his wife Marguerite Brûlart, for the church of the Cordeliers of Dijon (today in Dijon, cathedral Saint-Bénigne). In 1646, the Duchess of Aiguillon called Guillaume Berthelot to conceive the future tomb of Cardinal Richelieu, but the sculptor died two years later and the Duchess turned to other artists.

Works

Two Angels, bronze, Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore
Statue of the Virgin and Child of the Column of Peace in front of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore
Saint Paul, Rome, Palace of Monte Cavallo
Crucifix, Rome, Church of St. Mary in Vallicella or Chiesa Nuova
The Apostles and the Gospels, Paris, Church of the Sorbonne
The Prayer, around 1625, Leves, Hospital Aligre
La Force, around 1625, Leves, Hospital Aligre
The Silence, circa 1625, Paris, Luxembourg Gardens
Bust of Gaston of Orleans, circa 1625, marble, Paris, musée du Louvre (attributed)
Tomb of Charles Choiseul-Praslin, 1628 , Troyes, Museum of Fine Arts
Tombs of Jean-Baptiste Legoux of the Berchère and Marguerite Brûlart, 1633, Dijon, Saint-Bénigne cathedral
Statue of Louis XIII victorious, 1635, Poitiers, museum of the City of Poitiers and the Society of Antiques of the West
Silence, marble, Paris, Luxembourg Gardens
Louis XIII victorious, 1635, marble, Poitiers, museum of the Society of Antiques of the West
Priest of Jean-Baptiste Legoux de la Berchère, 1633, marble, Dijon, cathedral of Saint-Benigne
Priest of Marguerite Brûlart, 1633, marble, Dijon, Saint Bénigne cathedral
Bust of Gaston of Orleans, circa 1625, marble, Paris, musée du Louvre (attributed)

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