

1453

- On May 29 **Constantinople**, defended in vain by the Byzantines, Genoese, and Venetians, falls into the hands of the Turks under Mohammed II.

1454

- **The Peace of Lodi** ends the war between Venice, Florence and the papacy over the succession in the duchy of Milan. Francesco Sforza remains lord of the city.

1457

- Johann Gutenberg publishes **the first printed book** in Mainz.

1458

- The Sienese Pius II Piccolomini, a humanist and patron of the arts, is elected pope.

1459

- Cosimo de Medici founds the Platonic Academy.

1460

- Paolo Uccello paints the three episodes of the *Battle of San Romano*.

1461

- Leon Battista Alberti finishes the Tempio Malatestiano.

1464

- Pope Pius II dies.

1468

- Thanks to the donation by Cardinal Bessarion, St Mark's Library is founded in Venice.

1469

- Lorenzo de Medici, the Magnificent, becomes lord of Florence.
- The Kingdom of Spain is created with the marriage between Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.

1471

- Sixtus IV della Rovere, who will go on to build the Sistine Chapel, ascends the papal throne.

1472

- Regiomontanus demonstrates that comets are heavenly bodies.

1475

- **Michelangelo Buonarroti is born at Caprese.**
- Lorenzo the Magnificent writes the *Canti Carnascialeschi*, based on folk tradition.

1476

- Galeazzo Maria Sforza is assassinated in Milan in the conspiracy inspired by Cola Montano. He is succeeded by Gian Galeazzo.

1477

- Sandro Botticelli paints the *Primavera*.

1478

- Lorenzo's brother Giuliano is killed in Florence during the conspiracy against the Medici led by the Pazzi family.

1480

- Ludovico il Moro seizes power in Milan.
- The first tunnel is dug between Piedmont and Provence.

1481

- **His mother dies** and the young man takes lessons from Francesco Galeota da Urbino.

1482

- Torquemada heads the Spanish Inquisition.

1483

- Raffaello Sanzio (Raphael) is born in Urbino.

1484

- Giovanni Battista Cybo is elected pope under the name of Innocent VIII.

1485

- His friendship with Francesco Granacci begins.
- Botticelli paints the *Madonna del Magnificat*.

1488

- **He commences his apprenticeship** in Ghirlandaio's workshop.
- Bartholomeu Dias rounds the Cape of Good Hope, circumnavigating Africa.

1489

- He leaves Ghirlandaio's workshop and begins his studies of sculpture in the Medici Garden at San Marco. **The Head of a Faun, Brawl of the Centaurs, and Madonna della Scala** were probably executed between this year and 1492.
- Leonardo da Vinci perfects the technique used for his anatomical studies by injecting liquid wax into the cavities of corpses to make molds.

1490

- The first Latin edition of the works of Galen is published.

1492

- **Lorenzo the Magnificent dies** and is succeeded by his son Piero.
- He makes the wooden *Crucifix* now in Casa Buonarroti for the prior of Santo Spirito.
- On October 12 **Christopher Columbus lands on American soil**.
- Torquemada decides to expel the Jews from Spain.
- Piero della Francesca dies.

1493

- Antonio and Piero del Pollaiuolo finish the tomb of Sixtus IV.

1494

- He flees first to Venice and then to **Bologna**, where he carves three statues for St Dominic's tomb in the church of San Domenico.
- **Charles VIII invades Italy**.
- The Florentines drive out Piero de Medici and establish the republic.
- Pico della Mirandola and Politian die.

1495

- He returns to Florence.
- Charles VIII is defeated at Fornovo and retreats over the Alps.

1496

- He goes to Rome where he carves the *Drunken Bacchus* for Cardinal Riario.
- He carves a *Cupid* for Jacopo Galli in Rome.
- The followers of Savonarola in Florence stage the «bonfire of the vanities.»
- Raphael begins his apprenticeship with Perugino.

1497

- Leonardo finishes the *Last Supper*.

1498

- He goes to Carrara to choose the marble for the Pietà, which he starts to carve as soon as he returns to Rome.
- He probably carves the *Bruges Madonna* in this year.
- Machiavelli is appointed Chancellor of the Republic.
- Savonarola is tried and sentenced to death.
- Louis XII succeeds Charles VIII as king of France and invades Italy to attack Ludovico il Moro.
- The Portuguese Vasco da Gama lands at Calicut in India after rounding the Cape of Good Hope.

1499

- Establishment of the principality of Cesare Borgia, called Valentino, in Central Italy.

1500

- Pope Alexander VI Borgia proclaims the Jubilee. His son Cesare Borgia takes possession of the Romagna.
- Ludovico the Moro is taken as a prisoner to France.

1501

- On June 5 he accepts the commission for the sculptures of the Piccolomini Altar in Siena's cathedral.
- He returns to **republican Florence** and carves the *Bruges Madonna*.
- On August 16 the Vestry Board of Florence cathedral entrusts him with **the commission for the David**, which he begins to carve in September.

1502

- On August 12 in Florence he starts work on a bronze David for Pierre de Rohan, commissioned from him by **Pier Soderini**.

1503

- On April 24 he begins to carve Saint Matthew, the only one of the set of twelve apostles ordered from him for Florence cathedral to actually be executed.
- He carves a **tondo for the private devotion** of the Pitti family, from whom the work takes its name.
- Giuliano della Rovere is elected pope under the name of Julius II.
- After becoming pope, **Julius II** forces Valentino to relinquish the territories he has occupied.

1504

- He carves the *Taddei Tondo* and paints the *Doni Tondo*.
- In August he is commissioned to paint the Battle of Cascina for the Sala del Consiglio in Palazzo Vecchio.
- On September 8 the *David* is set up in Piazza Signoria.
- Raphael starts to work in Florence.

1505

- Through the support of Giuliano da Sangallo he receives the commission for **the tomb of Julius II**; in April he goes to Carrara to choose the marble.

1506

- Disagreements with Julius II oblige him to flee Rome in April and return to Florence.
- In November he goes to Bologna to meet Julius II and, having made peace with him, is commissioned to execute the pope's **bronze monument**.

- Julius II conquers Bologna and annexes the territory to the Papal State.
- Bramante begins work on the reconstruction of St Peter's Basilica.
- The Laocoön is found.

1508

- Having finished the bronze monument to Julius II in Bologna, he goes back to Florence and accepts the commission for a Hercules and Cacus from Gonfalonier Soderini.
- He goes to Rome where Julius II entrusts him with the frescoes for the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**, on which he will work until 1512.
- Raphael starts to decorate the Stanze of the pope's apartment in the Vatican palaces.
- Maximilian I, Louis XII, and Pope Julius II form the League of Cambrai against Venice.

1509

- The banker Agostino Chigi has the Farnesina built in Rome, according to a design by Baldassare Peruzzi. Later it is decorated by Raphael.
- Henry VIII Tudor ascends the throne of England.

1510

- Part of the frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel are shown to the public.
- He uses **the money** received from the pope to buy a wool merchant's store for his brother Buonarroti.
- The slave trade between Africa and America gets under way.
- Sandro Botticelli and Giorgione die.

1511

- The Commune of Bologna rebels against papal rule and destroys Michelangelo's bronze statue.
- Julius II quits the League of Cambrai and forms the Holy League with Spain, Venice, and the Swiss Confederation to drive the French out of Italy.

1512

- He finishes the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and follows **a new design for Julius II's tomb**.
- Occupied by the troops of the Holy League, the Republic of Florence falls and the rule of the Medici is restored.
- Restoration of the Sforza in Milan.

1513

- On the death of Julius II, he draws up the second contract for the Tomb with his heirs.
- Giovanni de Medici, the son of Lorenzo the Magnificent, becomes pope under the name of **Leo X**.
- **Niccolò Machiavelli writes *Il Principe***.
- **Leonardo experiments with flight**.

1514

- He receives the commission for the **Christ Resurrected** for the church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva.
- He carves the *Rebellious Slave* and the *Dying Slave* now in the Louvre.
- Leo X commences the sale of indulgences to finance the reconstruction of St Peter's Basilica.
- Bramante dies in Rome.

1515

- He finishes work on the *Moses*.
- Antonio da Sangallo the Younger begins the construction of Palazzo Farnese in Rome.

1516

- Third contract for the Tomb. The number of statues to be carved is further reduced.
- Antonio da Sangallo is made supervisor of the Fabric of St Peter's.
- Thomas More publishes his *Utopia*, a dialogue on the search for an ideal society.

1517

- He designs various models for the facade of San Lorenzo, commissioned from him by **Leo X** de Medici, and goes to the quarries of Pietrasanta and Serravezza to look for marble.
- **Martin Luther** nails his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg cathedral attacking the sale of indulgences and the worldly character of the church.
- Coffee starts to be imported into Europe.

1518

- In Florence he finishes the *Christ Resurrected*, which will be placed in Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome.
- Titian paints the *Assumption* for the Frari church.

1519

- Looking for a route to China, Ferdinand Magellan discovers the straits that bear his name.
- Charles I of Spain becomes emperor under the name of **Charles V**.
- Leonardo da Vinci dies in the service of Francis I in France.

1520

- He is entrusted with the commission for the New Sacristy and the Medici tombs in San Lorenzo.
- The pope decides not to build the facade of San Lorenzo, causing great resentment on the artist's part.
- Leo X condemns Luther's 41 propositions in the papal bull *Exurge Domine*.
- Raphael dies.

1521

- He begins the *Medici Madonna* for the New Sacristy.
- The tower of Belém is erected in Lisbon.
- Leo X de Medici dies.

1522

- The Fleming Adrian Florent is elected pope for the space of a few months, under the name of Hadrian VI.

1523

- The heirs of Julius II require him to finish the Tomb and he completes the *Prisoners*.
- The pontification of Clement VII begins.
- Benvenuto Cellini, sculptor and goldsmith, starts to work at the papal court.

1524

- Clement VII commissions from him the **Biblioteca Laurenziana** in the complex of San Lorenzo.
- Violent revolts by Protestant peasants spread in Germany.

1525

- The imperial troops defeat Francis I at the battle of Pavia, in part because they are equipped with harquebuses, used for the first time as weapons of defense.

1526

- Yet another design for the Tomb of Julius II is not accepted by the heirs.
- He begins work on the statue of *Giuliano de Medici* and on those of *Night and Day*.
- The sweet potato is imported into Spain.
- The second war between Charles V and Francis I commences. The League of Cognac is formed, allying France, the pope, Florence, Genoa, and Milan.
- Pontormo paints the *Deposition* in Santa Felicita.

1527

- As a result of the overthrow of the Medicean seigniorship and the siege of Florence, he is obliged to stop work on San Lorenzo.
- **Sack of Rome**; the pope is held prisoner in Castel Sant'Angelo.
- Expulsion of the Medici from Florence and establishment of the new republic.

1528

- **He places himself at the service of the republican government**, which confirms the commission for the Hercules and Cacus.
- He begins work as an adviser on the fortifications of Florence.
- Baldassare Castiglione publishes the *Libro del Cortegiano*, a treatise on the correct way to behave at the courts of the most important rulers.

1529

- In January he is appointed a member of the «Nine of the Militia» and draws up the plans for the defense of the city. In September he is summoned to Ferrara by Duke d'Este to appraise the soundness of the city's walls. After a brief return to Florence, **he flees to Venice** and is outlawed by the Republican government. Returning to Florence in November, he resumes work on the fortifications.
- Treaty of Barcelona between Charles V and Clement VII and the Peace of Cambrai between the emperor and Francis I.

1530

- He paints the *Leda* for the duke of Ferrara and carves the *David-Apollo* for Baccio Valori. On August 12, after the fall of the republic, he miraculously escapes the hired assassins of Duke Alessandro de Medici. Pardoned by Clement VII, **he continues work** on the *Laurenziana* and in the New Sacristy. He begins the four Prisoners, now in the Accademia, for the Tomb of Julius II.
- Charles V is crowned emperor and king of Italy by the pope in Bologna.
- After a siege of ten months, Florence falls into the hands of the emperor, who appoints Alessandro de Medici governor.
- **Francis I** commences the restructuring of the royal palace of Fontainebleau.

1531

- He executes the cartoon for the *Noli me tangere*, later to be used by Pontormo.
- Francisco Pizarro conquers Peru.
- Alessandro de Medici reenters Florence after the interlude of republican rule.
- **Henry VIII** of England declares himself the supreme head of the Anglican church and is excommunicated by the pope.

1532

- He draws up a new design for Julius II's Tomb, in which the decoration is reduced to six statues.
- He meets **Tommaso de' Cavalieri** and makes the drawings for him.
- He starts work on the *Victory*, now in Palazzo Vecchio.
- First printed edition of Machiavelli's *Il Principe* and *Istorie Fiorentine*.

1533

- At San Miniato al Tedesco, he meets Clement VII on his way to France, and it is probably on this occasion that the pope commissions the *Last Judgment* from him.
- Henry VIII of England marries Anne Boleyn.
- Ludovico Ariosto dies in Ferrara.

1534

- His father Ludovico Buonarroti dies at the age of ninety. **He moves to Rome** for good and begins work on **the Last Judgment**.
- Alessandro Farnese succeeds Clement VII as pope under the name of Paul III.
- Ignatius of Loyola founds the Society of Jesus.

1535

- The new pope, Paul III, confirms the commission for the *Last Judgment* and work commences in April.
- He is appointed «chief architect, sculptor, and painter» of the Apostolic Palaces.
- In England Thomas More is executed for his opposition to the Anglican schism.

1536

- His friendship with Vittoria Colonna begins.
- **John Calvin commences his reform activity in Geneva.**
- Anne Boleyn, accused of adultery and incest, is beheaded.
- Pietro Aretino publishes *I ragionamenti* (licentious dialogues).
- Vittoria Colonna's *Rime* come out.
- The third war begins between Charles V and Francis I, who invades Savoy in retaliation for the direct annexation of the duchy of Milan to Spain.

1537

- He is made a Roman citizen. He works on the setting for the equestrian statue of **Marcus Aurelius** on the **Capitol Square**.
- Alessandro de Medici is killed by his cousin Lorenzino. The son of Giovanni delle Bande Nere, Cosimo I, is made duke.
- Sansovino begins the Loggetta of the Campanile, St Mark's Library, and the Mint in Venice.

1538

- He probably executes the *Pietà*, now lost, for **Vittoria Colonna**.
- The painters Salviati and Jacopino del Conte work on the oratory of San Giovanni Decollato in Rome.
- Titian paints the *Venus of Urbino*.
- Accused of theft and murder, Benvenuto Cellini is imprisoned in Castel Sant'Angelo, from where he escapes.

1539

- Probable start of work on the bust of *Brutus* for Cardinal Ridolfi.
- The Flemish composer Jacobus Arcadelt publishes his *First Book of Four-Part Madrigals*, which includes two madrigals by Michelangelo.
- Cosimo I marries Eleonora of Toledo, the daughter of Don Pedro, Viceroy of Naples.
- Isabella d'Este, considered the most cultivated woman of her time, dies in Mantua.

1540

- Paul III approves the Society of Jesus founded by Ignatius of Loyola.
- Benvenuto Cellini is at the court of Francis I in France.

1541

- On October 31 the *Last Judgment* is shown to the public.
- He obtains an agreement from the heirs of Julius II for the pope's tomb to be completed by others under his supervision.

1542

- **He begins to paint the *Conversion of Saint Paul*** in the Pauline Chapel. The work will be completed in 1545.
- **The Holy Office is set up in Rome.**
- Cardinal Contarini, a leading figure in the Catholic reform movement, dies.

1542-1545

- He carves the figures of *Leah* and *Rachel* for the Tomb of Julius II in San Pietro in Vincoli.

1543

- **Nicholas Copernicus enunciates his heliocentric theory.**
- The fourth war commences between Charles V and Francis I and is concluded with the Peace of Crépy: Francis I renounces Naples but is given Burgundy.

1544

- He designs the tomb and writes the epitaphs for Cecchino Bracci, nephew of Luigi del Riccio.

1545

- He paints the *Crucifixion of Saint Peter* in the Pauline Chapel.
- **He finishes the Tomb of Julius II** in San Pietro in Vincoli.

- With the help of del Riccio and Donato Giannotti, he plans to print a collection of his *Rime*. The project is interrupted definitively on the death of del Riccio.
- **The Ecumenical Council called by Paul III opens in Trent.**
- Cellini works on the *Perseus* in Florence.

1546

- On the death of Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, he is appointed architect of the fabrication of **St Peter's** and wins the competition for the completion of **Palazzo Farnese**.
- Pontormo begins the fresco of the *Last Judgment* in the choir of San Lorenzo in Florence.
- Martin Luther dies.

1547

- Charles V defeats the Protestant princes of the League of Schmalkalden.
- Vittoria Colonna dies.
- Henry VIII of England and Francis I of France dies. Francis is succeeded by Henry II, husband of Caterina de Medici.
- Sebastiano del Piombo dies.

1548

- The Venetian Jacopo Robusti called Tintoretto paints *The Miracle of Saint Mark* for the Scuola Grande di San Marco.

1550

- He probably executes the *Pietà* for Florence's cathedral. He begins work on the plans for San Giovanni dei Fiorentini in Rome.
- Julius III ascends the papal seat.
- **Giorgio Vasari publishes the first edition of his *Lives***, in which the only one devoted to a living artist is that of Michelangelo.
- The Medici move from Palazzo Vecchio to Palazzo Pitti and start work on the Boboli garden.

1552

- Construction of the flight of steps leading to the **Capitol** is completed.
- Probable start of work on the first version of the *Rondanini Pietà*.

1553

- The Catholic Mary Tudor succeeds her brother Edward VI to the throne of England.
- Ascanio Condivi publishes Michelangelo's biography.

1555

- Probable start of work on the *Palestrina Pietà*.
- **Nostradamus's *Astrological Centuries*** are published.
- Marcellus II is pope for a month; he is succeeded by Paul IV Carafa.
- The Peace of Augsburg puts an end to the religious wars in Germany, giving the German states freedom of worship.
- Vasari begins to work on the restructuring and pictorial redecoration of Palazzo Vecchio.
- Francesco Amadori called Urbino dies, after 26 years as Michelangelo's pupil and servant. One of his brothers, Gismondo, also dies.

1556

- With Rome under threat from the Spanish army, he leaves the city and goes to Loreto.
- Charles V abdicates in favor of his son **Philip II**, who is crowned king of Spain.

1557

- The Holy Office publishes the first «Index Librorum Prohibitorum» or list of forbidden books.

1558

- **Elizabeth I becomes queen of England.**

- Charles V dies in the monastery of Yuste in Estremadura.
- Giovanni della Casa's *Galateo* is published.

1559

- He sends a model to Ammannati for the staircase of the Biblioteca Laurenziana to be built in wood and draws up the plans for the church of San Giovanni dei Fiorentini.
- Pius IV de Medici is elected to the papal throne.
- On the orders of Pius IV, Daniele da Volterra begins to cover up the naked figures in the *Last Judgment*.
- The Peace of Cateau-Cambrésis is signed between France and Spain.
- With the death of Henry II, Caterina de Medici commences her regency of the French throne.
- Ammannati wins the competition for the Fountain of Neptune in Florence's Piazza Signoria.

1561

- Pius IV commissions him to build the church of **Santa Maria degli Angeli** on the ruins of Diocletian's Baths.
- He completes the wooden model for **the dome of St Peter's**.
- He begins work on Porta Pia at the behest of Pius IV.

1562

- St Teresa of Avila writes her autobiography.

1563

- **He is appointed head of the Accademia del Disegno** set up in Florence, **the world's first academy of art**.
- **The Council of Trent** comes to an end.
- Vasari starts work on conversion of the Sala Grande in Palazzo Vecchio.
- Construction of the Escorial Palace in Madrid commences.
- The Milanese artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo, court painter in Vienna, paints his series of *Seasons*.

1564

- On February 18 **he dies in his Roman house** near Trajan's Forum. His body is taken to Florence by his nephew Lionardo and buried in Santa Croce.
- Solemn funeral rites are celebrated in San Lorenzo on July 14.
- John Calvin dies.
- Cosimo I, duke of Florence, retires into private life, leaving the government in the hands of his son Francesco I.
- The Congregation of the Council of Trent decides that the naked figures in the Sistine Chapel should be covered.

1572

- On the night of August 2, St Bartholomew's Day, thousands of French Protestants are massacred on the orders of the Queen of France, **Caterina de Medici**.