

Pitti Tondo

The relief had been carved for the private devotion of its clients, the Pitti family. Turning up on the antique market at the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was bought by the Tuscan government for the Galleria degli Uffizi, and later transferred to the Bargello. Numerous influences from other works can be detected: the Madonna has a cherub, representing the gift of prophecy, on her head like the one by Donatello on the altar of Il Santo in Padua; the pose of the Virgin is similar to that of *Prudence* on the Fonte Gaia in Siena (Jacopo della Quercia); the child resembles the funerary genii on the sarcophagus of Phaedra in Pisa Cemetery. This takes nothing away from the originality of the composition, with the distorted perspective of the cube on which the Madonna is seated and the way that her face is pushed forward, in strong contrast to the continuous and repeated advancement and withdrawal of the other elements of the relief.