

Christ Resurrected

In 1514, Cencio Bernardo, Mario Scappucci, Pietro Paolo Castellano, and Metello Vari commissioned a *Christ Resurrected* from Michelangelo. The artist worked on the figure until 1516. When the sculpture was almost complete, a black vein emerged from the marble, running across the face. He started work on it again in Florence, in 1519, and concluded in 1520. As was customary, it was transported to Rome in an unfinished state. The job of polishing the statue was given to Pietro Urbano, who went about it so clumsily that Sebastiano del Piombo was forced to intervene, asking the master to entrust someone else with the task. Thus it was completed by Federico Frizzi, who also set it in place on December 27th, 1521. Michelangelo, unhappy with the results, proposed a new version to the clients, but Vari and the others were satisfied and did not accept. The artist gave his first attempt to Vari, who set it up in his garden, and was subsequently lost. The gentle twisting of the bust gives a pagan spirit to the sculpture, which also stands out for its complete nakedness. Along with the cross, Christ is holding other symbols in a totally original iconography.