Michelangelo and Bernini David Sculpture Comparison

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The artworks selected for interpretation are Michelangelo's *David* and Gian Lorenzo Bernini's *David*. The original essay compares the two sculptures through Renaissance and Baroque aesthetics, individualism, humanism, realism, movement, and the representation of the biblical hero before his battle with Goliath. That comparative structure remains the basis of the expanded analysis. Both artists chose the same subject, yet each selected a different moment in the story and a different relationship between the figure and the viewer. Michelangelo shows David before the combat, concentrating on the unseen enemy. Bernini presents him during the physical action of preparing to release the stone. The contrast is therefore not simply between a calm statue and an active one. It is a contrast between two ways of understanding courage, time, spectatorship, and the human body (Sanders, 2020; Galleria Borghese, n.d.).

The original discussion correctly connects Michelangelo with the High Renaissance and Bernini with the Baroque, but it sometimes calls Bernini an early Renaissance artist. Bernini worked in the seventeenth century, more than a century after Michelangelo completed his statue. His sculpture reflects Baroque drama, motion, and emotional intensity. Both artists inherited classical Greek and Roman approaches to the heroic body, but they transformed that inheritance according to the political and religious worlds in which they worked (Wittkower, 1997).

Michelangelo's David: An Epitome of Individualism

Michelangelo completed his marble *David*

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