



**Gian Lorenzo  
Bernini**

# A real artist

Gian Lorenzo Bernini was born in Naples in 1598 and died in Rome in 1680.

He was an architect, sculptor, painter, art director, costume designer and comedian: a person that includes all the arts of the baroque of the sixteenth century.

All his career has been inside the papal court, where Bernini became the most important exponent of art, because the church at that time was in big difficulty, so it instructed the artist to increase the greatness of it.

# Works for the *Borghese* family

When Bernini moved to Rome, he realised for the family “Borghese” some operas that today we can see in the museum of Villa Borghese in Rome, like *David*, or *Apollo and Daphne*.



# *St. Peter with Urbano VII*

In 1629 Bernini was called to manage the works of St. Peter's basilica by the pope Urbano VII. In the church he realised:

- *the Chair of St. Peter,*
- *the St. Peter's Baldachin*
- *the tomb of Urban VII,* that we can still see today in the basilica.

# *The Four Rivers Fountain*

When Urbano VII died, Innocenzo X became pope. But he was against the old pope and all the people that he protected, like Bernini. So, Bernini had to show to the new pope his talent, and he could do it by realising the ***Four Rivers Fountain*** in Piazza Navona, one of his most important works in Rome.



# Borromini VS Bernini: the legend

There's a legend about that fountain, that shows the rivalry between Bernini and another artist, Borromini. In fact in front of Bernini's fountain, there's the church

of *St. Agnese in Agone*, realised by Borromini.

In *the fours river fountain* we can see a figure that tries to repair himself with the water of the fountain, after the fall of the church. But this is just a legend.

just  
was built some  
fountain.



# The top of his career

By now everyone recognised the talent of Bernini, and this brought him to:

- project the new entry of *Piazza del Popolo*,
- to built *Minerva's obelisk*,
- but especially to work on the *square of St.Peter*, with the massive colonnades, that embrace visitors in "the maternal arms of Mother Church".



# Dedications to Bernini

Bernini has been a very influent person, in fact many things have been devoted to him. One example is a crater on Mercury, that is called like the artist.

Bernini was also the image on the last type of banknote of 50.000 lire.

