



Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (6 March 1475 – 18 February 1564), known best as simply Michelangelo, was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance, who had a huge influence on the development of Western Art. Several people have described Michelangelo as the greatest artist of his age and even as the greatest artist of all time.

A number of Michelangelo's works of painting, sculpture and architecture rank among the most famous in existence. He is the best-documented artist of the 16th century. Despite not really liking to paint, he also created two of the most influential frescoes in the history of Western art.

Michelangelo was the first Western artist whose biography was published while he was alive. In fact, two biographies were published during his lifetime. One of them, by Giorgio Vasari, proposed that Michelangelo's work beat that of any artist living or dead, and was "supreme in not one art alone but in all three".

In his lifetime, Michelangelo was often called *Il Divino* ("the divine one"). His peers often admired his *terribilità*—his ability to instil a sense of awe. Other artists tried to imitate Michelangelo's impassioned, highly personal style resulted in Mannerism, the next major movement in Western art after the High Renaissance.