



For adults and children aged 6 and upwards  
to share while exploring the exhibition together  
**DONATELLO, THE RENAISSANCE**



Donatello was **A GREAT SCULPTOR** who lived in Florence in the 14th and 15th centuries.

His sculptures can be admired in museums all over the world, and many of them have come to Palazzo Strozzi specially for this exhibition.

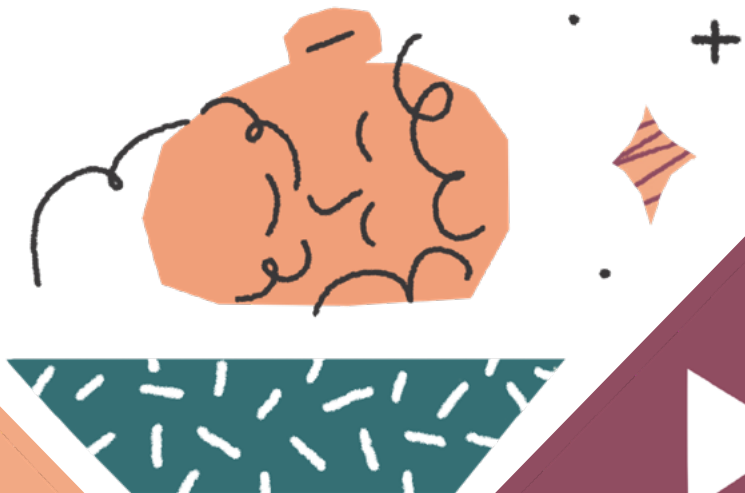
Donatello worked in marble, stone, wood, clay and metal, creating an incredible number of sculptures in the course of his career – the first when he was about 18, and the last when he was almost eighty!

The *David Victorious* is **ONE OF THE FIRST SCULPTURES** Donatello ever made. It tells the story of a young shepherd called David who defeated the giant Goliath with a stone from a sling. The giant's head with its long beard and thick hair lies at David's feet as proof of his victory.



Here in the exhibition we have a unique opportunity to see the sculpture up close. Look at it carefully and list all the details you can see.

Start from the top and move downwards, then walk around it. Is there anything you find particularly striking?



For the statue of *Saint Louis* Donatello made lots of separate pieces in bronze and then put them all together.

To save time and material he only focused on the saint's clothes without bothering about the body beneath them, like a suit of armour on a figure... who isn't there!

The statue's **DRAPERY** (the way the fabric forms folds and ripples) seems to be made of real fabric (though it's actually gilded bronze).

When other 15th century artists saw this statue they were so dazzled by it that they started to imitate the rich drapery in their own work.

**Look around the room:** can you see any painted or sculpted drapery that looks like the drapery on *Saint Louis*?





Donatello was famous for successfully using marble or bronze to make figures that look really lifelike and even seem to have feelings.

In the *Pazzi Madonna* Mary and Jesus are shown in a warm, loving pose. They're gazing at one another, their noses are touching and their faces are so close they almost merge. They look as though they're **NUZZLING!**

**We make lots of gestures in our daily lives to show people we love them: what are the gestures you generally use in your family? Do you remember the first gesture you ever made to your parents when you were tiny?**

Donatello's work is often full of winged cherubs prancing around in the altogether. They're known as putti or **SPIRITELLI**.



● SECTION 5

Just like angels, they're messengers between heaven and earth and they symbolise the liveliness and happiness that lurks in each one of us. They're often shown in joyful poses, dancing, playing music or playing games, and even when they're still their balance tends to be precarious, like standing on a shell for example.

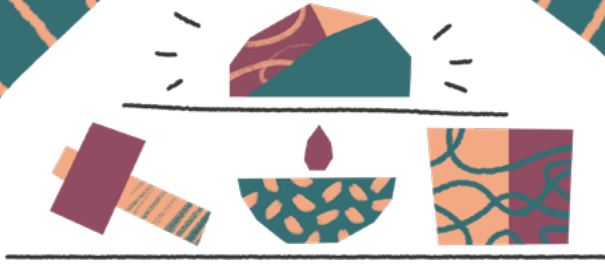
**Look for the spiritelli in this room and the next one, look at their poses and try to imitate them. What does it feel like to be in the same position as them?**



After the success of his work in Florence (seasoned with a dash of criticism), Donatello decided to move to Padua where he stayed for 10 years. That experience was crucial for northern Italian artists, who took his work as their **MODEL** to create their own innovative works of art.

Painters and sculptors imitated Donatello's work in their figures' poses in their compositions and even in such minor details as wreaths of flowers and decorative vases.

**Compare the various versions of the *Madonna and Child* in this room and try finding things that are repeated. What have you found?**



Donatello was skilled at handling a wide range of very different materials. He was a sculptor, a carver and a goldsmith and he could turn bronze into a story with lots of figures, for instance in the *Miracle of the Mule*.

The scene is set under **THREE LARGE ARCHES** very similar to the ones in the *Flagellation and Calvary*, except that the *Flagellation* is made of terracotta.

Bronze, terracotta, wood, enamel and marble all require different ways of working.

Look at the exhibits in this room and the next one and try to guess what materials they're made of. You can find the answers in the captions.



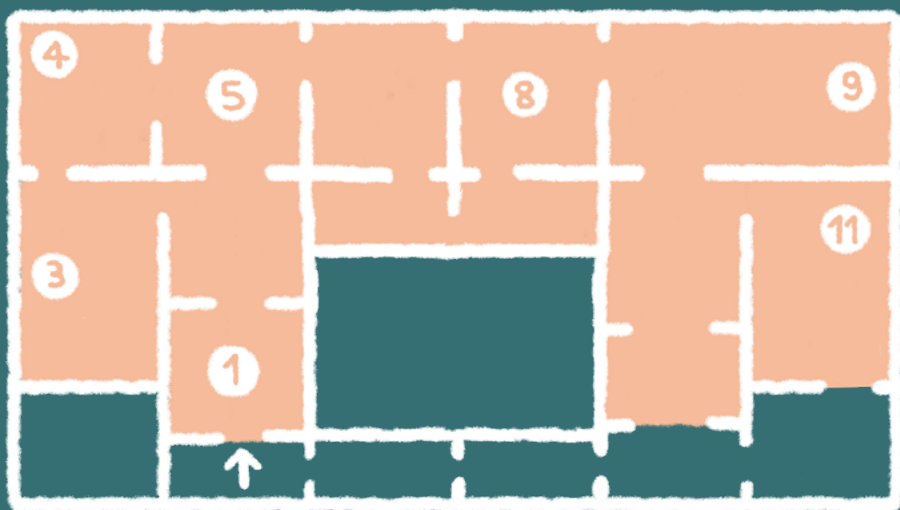


For a long time people thought that this large **HORSE'S HEAD** was the work of a magician. Today we know that Donatello made it when he was 70. It's the only part he ever made of a gigantic statue of the King of Naples on horseback which, in the event, he never completed.

**It can happen that you break off doing something before you've finished. Ask the people you're with to tell you about something they've begun but haven't got round to finishing yet.**

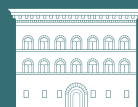
**Now think of the future. What would you like to achieve? When you get home, jot down your great enterprise on a piece of paper, put it in an envelope, seal it and reopen it in 5 years' time. Do you think you'll have managed to achieve it?**

The Family Kit is a tool for exploring the Donatello, the Reinassonce exhibition with the whole family. The Kit is one of the tools that the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi offers to encourage visitors of all ages to visit its exhibitions and to stimulate people's interest in every form of art.



The numbers on the map indicates the sections where to stop and read the corresponding text.

The Family Kit is a project by Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi  
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