Bust - Benivieni

Object: Bust

Place of origin: Italy (Florence, made)

Date: 19th century (made)

Artist/Maker: Bastianini, Giovanni, born 1830 - died 1868 (sculptor)

Materials and Techniques: Plaster

Museum number: 591-1869

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

This is a plaster bust model made as a forgery by Giovanni Bastianini in the 19th century Florence, Italy. The bust, in the style of the 15th century, was the original model for the bust in terracotta representing the poet Girolamo Benivieni (1453-1542). It is possible that the sitter was a Giuseppe Buonaiuti, an operative in a tobacco factory who was chosen on account of his resemblance to an engraving of Benivieni in Allegrini.

Giovanni Bastianini (1830 – 1868) was an Italian sculptor who started as a stonemason in the quarries at Fiesole. Bastianini's name became famous in relation to his skillful art forgery. Bastianini loved Renaissance sculpture and took this for his main inspiration. He worked with a Florentine art and antique dealer (Giovanni Freppa) where he produced numerous neo-Renaissance works, most often busts and bas-reliefs in the style of Donatello, Verrocchio, Mino de Fiesole and other Italian masters.

Descriptive line

Bust, plaster model, for the "Benivieni", Italian (Florence), by Giovanni Bastianini, 19th century, in the style of the 15th century

Physical description

Plaster bust in the style of the 15th century, an original model for the "Benivieni" bust in terracotta. He is gazing slightly upwards to his right. The head is severed above the line of the cap. On a moulded plaster base.

Dimensions

Height: 34.29 cm, Width: 20.32 cm

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Object history note

Given by Dr. Alessandro Foresi in 1869.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O166403/benivieni-bust-bastianini-giovanni/