VI. GIAN LORENZO BERNINI (1598-1680)

Biographical and background information

1. Born in Naples, son of a sculptor; family moved to Rome in 1605.
2. In addition to being a sculptor, Bernini was a painter, architect, playwright and stage designer. His interest in the theater extended to many of his architectural commissions, which combined sculpture and architecture.
3. Favorite artist of Pope Urban VIII (1623-44); lost and partially regained favor under Pope Innocent X (1644-55); favorite again of Pope Alexander VII (1655-67)
4. Traveled to Paris in 1665 at the invitation of Louis XIV.

Selected works

5. Sculptures commissioned by Cardinal Scipione Borghese (all marble, Galleria Borghese, Rome)
   a. *Pluto and Persephone*, 1621-22 (8’)
   b. *Apollo and Daphne*, 1622-25 (8’)
      i. Comparison: *Apollo Belvedere*, Roman copy of Greek Hellenistic original, c. 130-140 A.D. (marble, 7.7’, Vatican Museums, Rome)
   c. *David*, 1623-24 (5’7”)
6. Funerary monuments
   a. *Ecstasy of St. Theresa*, Cornaro Chapel, Sta. Maria della Vittoria, Rome, 1645-52 (mixed media, including white and colored marble, bronze, stucco, and gilded wood)
   b. *Tomb of Urban VIII*, St. Peter’s, Rome, 1628-47 (marble and bronze)
   c. *Tomb of Alexander VII*, St. Peter’s, Rome, 1671-78 (marble and bronze)
7. Portrait busts
   a. *Cardinal Scipione Borghese*, 1632 (marble, 2’7”, Galleria Borghese, Rome)
   b. *Costanza Bonarelli*, c. 1635 (marble, 2’4”, Bargello Museum, Florence)
8. Fountain design
   a. *Fountain of the Four Rivers*, Piazza Navona, Rome, 1648-51 (marble)
9. St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome
   a. *St. Longinus*, 1629-38 (marble, 14’5”)
   b. *Baldacchino*, 1624-33 (bronze, 94’)
   c. *Cathedra Petri* (“Chair of St. Peter”), 1657-66 (gilt bronze and stucco)
   d. Piazza in front of St. Peter’s, 1656-67
Readings and web resources

**Primary Source Reader**
Filippo Baldinucci, from “The Life of Cavaliere Lorenzo Bernini”
Paul Fréart, Sieur de Chantelou, from *The Diary of Cavalier Bernini’s Journey in France*
Saint Teresa of Avila, from *Life of Saint Teresa of Avila*
Ovid, “Daphne and Apollo,” from *The Metamorphoses*

**Readings on Butler Reserve**
Howard Hibbard, *Bernini* (Baltimore, 1965)

**Other readings**

**Web resources**
QuickTime VR 360 degree views of the Cornaro Chapel, the crossing of St. Peter's showing the baldacchino, the piazza outside St. Peter's, the interior of San Andrea al Quirinale, and Piazza Santa Maria sopra Minerva, all available from Bernini page on Art Humanities website

**Local museum resources**
MMA: Attributed to Bernini: *Bacchanal: A Faun Teased by Children*, c. 1616-17 (marble, 52”, acc. no. 1976.92)