

Christ Crucified

Made for the prior of Santo Spirito, it was thought to have been lost during Napoleon's suppression of the monastic orders. However, it was rediscovered under a thick layer of paint in 1962. The cross is eighteenth century while the descriptive placard of the cross is original. Extraordinary in its style, which renews the tradition of late fifteenth century Florentine art and modifies it with a serpentine form, the sculpture constitutes a precious testimony to the moment in Michelangelo's development, when he passed from a reinterpretation of antiquity to a realistic portrayal of the subject. Prior to the «grand and proud» manner that was to characterize all of the artist's later work, the body, represented with extreme purity and chastity, is that of a young man seen from a totally non-heroic perspective. Many people have seen parallels with the sculptures of Benedetto da Maiano, such as the *Crucifix* in the cenaculum of Fuligno, in this work, hypothesizing that Michelangelo may have been a follower of the older master.