

Day

Sarcophagus of Giuliano de Medici, Duke of Nemours

It is located to the right of *Night*, under the statue of Giuliano de Medici. *Day* is represented as a muscular man, at the height of his powers. Some have detected in it a movement of rebellion interpreted in an autobiographical sense. Michelangelo was working on it during his last years in Florence, and his impatience with the orders and counter-orders to which he was subjected may have inspired this figure, which appears to embody revolt. The face was not finished, but once again this deficiency is compensated by the expressiveness of the body. The roughness of this statue's surface has recently been explained as an attempt to give a colored effect to the skin of a creature constantly exposed to the light of the sun.