

Giuliano de Medici, Duke of Nemours

Left incomplete, it was given the finishing touches by Montorsoli in 1534. The Duke is represented as a victorious general on his triumphal chariot and is dressed in Roman-style armor, decorated with a monstrous mask, looking rather like an anthropomorphic bat. To those who pointed out that the statue's features did not resemble those of the duke, Michelangelo replied that after a certain number of years no one would be able to remember what Giuliano looked like. Vasari draws attention to his proud appearance and pose but holds that, in contrast to Lorenzo, the figure represents the Active Life. The soul can come to the divine through action, too, seems to be the message of the attributes he is holding, the staff of command and a coin symbolizing generosity.