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Pope Julius II

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Mentioning arts, many people may imagine of the great masterworks, paintings, pastels, or even sculptures, displayed in the gallery. Indeed, there are various sorts of arts. One of those arts, mural art, is the artwork or painting drew on the wall and ceiling instead of papers. Significantly, this sort of art is applied to the construction materials connecting with religion. Flashing back in sixteenth century, the combination of art and religion was initially inspired by the famous priest, Pope Julius II. The very unique reputation and remarkable thing of Pope Julius II is the patronage of, particularly mural and visual, arts mostly relating to religious building, church.

Pope Julius II, Giuliano della Rovere, was born on 5 December 1443, at Albisola, in Italy.¹ At first, he aimed to take commercial job. However, his uncle, Francesco della Rovere, wanted him to be literate, and sent him to learn with the Fransiscans. After the pontificate of his uncle as Pope Sixtus IV, he got huge reinforcement as well as advancement. Nevertheless, when the time came, his uncle, Pope Sixtus IV passed away in 1484.² Thus, he gave bribes to the electors in that election in order to promote Cardinal Cibo as Pope Innocent VIII. Due to the weakness of Cibo and debt owing to Giuliano, it was much easier to manipulate or control him. After the death of Pope Innocent VIII in 1492, Giuliano desired to elevate himself to be the latter papacy.³ Unfortunately, the resentment of his holding

¹ Ott, Michael. "Pope Julius II." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 8. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1910. 7 Feb. 2013 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08562a.htm>>

² Jokinen, Anniina. "Pope Julius II." *Luminarium*. 5 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/julius2.htm>>

³ Jokinen, Anniina. "Pope Julius II." *Luminarium*. 5 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/julius2.htm>>

power during Pope Innocent VIII's throne from the cardinals failed his desire. After the election, the next throne then went to Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia as Pope Alexander VI. The contradiction occurred between Borgia and him combining with his personal antipathy, which made him to go away from Rome, because of the anxiety of his own safety. He went to stay at Ostia. Giuliano remained in France until 1503, the death of Pope Alexander VI. The cardinals elected Pope Pius III who was undergoing the illness and shortly died within only about 26 days after the election.⁴ Waiting for elevation as papacy ultimately ended. He used the money and promises to elevate as an exchange for this position to the cardinals. Giuliano was elected as Pope Julius II in October 1503. During his throne, he restored many Papal States and more after the defeat of Venice. However, he not only freed Italy from France, but also interested in arts.

Other than 'Warrior Pope,' Pope Julius II was known as 'the Renaissance Pope' as well. At that time, the age was called the High Renaissance age.⁵ He started to accumulate lots of art amassments. The most stunning and admirable artwork for him was the Vatican art collection. In addition, he also committed the plan of religious constructions, which they are still well known up until now. Diversified buildings and places were painted, rebuilt and renovated by the great artists hired by Pope Julius II as a patron of those arts. Significantly, he took the benefits from most of those artworks by creating his own appearance in definite arts. For instance, there was his emblem appeared in the form of medals and coins. It obviously showed that he wanted to be an iconic one. During that time, it was at the point of greatest success for

⁴ Ott, Michael. "Pope Julius II." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 8. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1910. 7 Feb. 2013 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08562a.htm>>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Art patronage of Julius II." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 6 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_patronage_of_Julius_II>

all of the artists' careers as well, which was the patronage of art from Pope Julius II that hired all those artists.

The Pietà, the famous and impressive masterpiece work by Michelangelo, skillful sculptor at that time, really got Pope Julius II's extraordinary satisfaction. Therefore, Pope Julius II did not hesitate hiring Michelangelo, assigning him to create superior artworks for him. It was all began with the first ceiling repainting in the Sistine Chapel, Roman Catholic chapel and official Pope's resident in the Vatican City. It was almost five years taken for all around a thousand square meter area of the ceiling to be completed. Similarly, the painting on the ceiling expressed and described the story relating to Christianity, such as God's Creation of the World, God's Relationship with Mankind, and Mankind's Fall from God's Grace.⁶ Likewise, this Michelangelo's artwork, specifically The Last Judgment, was another successful one for him and has remained to be famous until the present. The interior of the chapel, ceiling painting, combined with the Renaissance architecture made the Sistine Chapel become one of the most attractive tourism in the world. As a matter of fact, that was not only Michelangelo's work has been done as a commission of Pope Julius II. The later work was harder and took much longer time to be accomplished, Julius's tomb. It was nearly 40 years completing this project, such as choosing the building material, which reflected how delicate and scrupulous Julius II and Michelangelo were. Sadly, at last, it was about 32 years after the death of Pope Julius II that the tomb was completed.

Another magnificent artwork's design of Donato Bramante, the architect and artist commissioned by Pope Julius II, was the reconstruction of Saint Peter's Basilica,

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Sistine Chapel." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 7 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistine_chapel>

late Renaissance church.⁷ Pope Julius II attempted to remain admiration in the Vatican filled with embellishment, in order to be remembered. Furthermore, he put great effort reconstructing this church to show the opponents how great religious devotee he was as well as to encourage Catholicism. Bramante designed the grand and splendid dome following the likely one, Pantheon in Rome.⁸ What really made him getting this honor to work in this project was his perspective view in design of art integrating with splendor and grandeur.

Apart from the architectural arts of Saint Peter's Basilica, as usual, Pope Julius II hired Raphael, High Renaissance painter, as a chief architect to paint the Stanza della Segnatura, one of the four Raphael Rooms.⁹ In fact, it was the friendship between Bramante and Raphael that brought him there. The paintings of Raphael in that room were fresco, painting on the freshly moist plaster of the wall. The major idea for this room, library, was spiritual wisdom mixing with Greek philosophy and the spirit of Christianity. Moreover, Raphael painted the two portraits, oil on wood painting, of Pope Julius II as well. Those two portraits are still hanging in two galleries, Florence, Italy and London, England.

Explicitly, it is concisely comprehended that Pope Julius II was the real patron of arts, architectural, visual and mural, of the High Renaissance Age, early-sixteenth century. Nonetheless, there were some suspicions of his real motives. Many scholars have criticized him about the motives. The most possible one should be to increase church's wealth and his renown. That is why he commissioned to rebuild the Saint Peter's Basilica, the world's largest Cathedral. He was also compared; imitating

⁷ Wikipedia contributors. "St. Peter's Basilica." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 6 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Peter%27s_Basilica>

⁸ Fletcher, Banister (1975). *History of Architecture on the Comparative Method for the student, craftsman, and amateur*. New York: Macmillan Pub Company. ISBN 9997460553.

⁹ Wikipedia contributors. "Raphael." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 7 Feb. 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael>>

reconstructing sites, to what Julius Caesar did, which was the reason that he chose his name to be Julius. Some said that what he did was just his personal satisfaction. On the other hand, Pope Julius II is somehow the one creating and inspiring the beauty and magnificence of arts of church. The truth of what the actual motivations of him were cannot be known, it just left the people with the priceless artworks in those places, which is more meaningful.