

Name _____

Bernini: The Marvelous Sculptor of the Baroque Era

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Gian Lorenzo Bernini's early artistic development was greatly influenced by his father, Pietro Bernini, who was a sculptor. Growing up in an artistic environment, he received guidance and support from his father, who nurtured his talent and provided him with opportunities to develop his skills. This early mentorship played a crucial role in shaping his artistic journey.
2. "The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa" is a masterpiece that captures the mystical experience of Saint Teresa as she describes her encounter with an angel. The sculpture portrays Saint Teresa in a state of rapture, with her body appearing to levitate from the ground. The angel's presence is suggested through the use of drapery and the overall composition, creating a sense of divine and earthly merging. This work is located in the Cornaro Chapel in Rome, where it serves as a stunning example of Baroque sculpture and spirituality.
3. Gian Lorenzo Bernini's contributions to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome were significant. He designed the impressive baldachin (canopy) over the high altar, which stands as a symbol of grandeur and spirituality within the basilica. Additionally, he redesigned the square in front of the basilica, known as St. Peter's Square, creating a harmonious and welcoming entrance to the church. These architectural elements enriched the artistic and architectural heritage of Rome and continue to be celebrated today.
4. Gian Lorenzo Bernini's enduring legacy is marked by his groundbreaking approach to sculpture, architecture, and storytelling. His ability to blend these disciplines set a standard for Baroque art and had a profound influence on subsequent generations of artists. Additionally, his contributions to the city of Rome, including St. Peter's Basilica and its surroundings, have left an indelible mark on the city's cultural and artistic landscape. Bernini's work continues to inspire and captivate art enthusiasts and historians, ensuring his lasting impact on the art world.

