

# Luigi Fontana

Roman painter and sculptor  
1827-1908

Luigi Fontana was born on March 2, 1827 in Monte San Pietrangeli by Ascoli as the son of a certain Tommaso Fontana and his wife Teresa Barbarossa. apparently not in family with the Fontana family in the 16th century.

Luigi received his first education in the years 1838-1841 at Gaetano Ferri in Macerata and then from 1841 at Gaetano Palmaroli. From 1843/1844, Luigi Fontana came to Rome, where he worked at Tommaso Minardi and studied at Accademia di San Luca. Unfortunately, he got sick of typhus and had to go back to his hometown where he continued to work after he had become fast.

In 1850, his old master, Tommaso Minardi, got him to return to Rome to work in his workshop and after Minardi's death in 1871, Fontana remained in Rome, where he opened his own workshop. He worked as a painter, graphic artist, artist, photographer, sculptor and architect, as well as restoration of paintings and buildings (eg: Giuseppe Cesari's frescoes in San Giovanni in Laterano (1886-1887) and the painted backfacade at Palazzo Massimo (1877)).

In 1873, Luigi Fontana became a member of the artist association Accademia di San Luca. and in 1875 by the association Congregazione dei Virtuosi del Pantheon.

Luigi Fontana became father of son Tommaso Fontana, who followed in his footprints and trained as a painter and sculptor. In some cases, father and son worked together on their works.

Luigi Fontana died in Rome on 27 December 1908.

In Rome, we know the following works by Luigi Fontana in the churches:

Sant'Andrea delle Fratte:

statues of Santa Anna and an angel,

Santi Apostoli:

Fresco performed in the years 1871-1875,

Sant'Ignazio:

Statue of San Giovanni Berchmans,

San Lorenzo in Damaso:

- midship: fresco with the motif "Vita di San Lorenzo" ("San Lorenzo's Life Scenes"), carried out in the years 1880-1883,
- piece statue of San Francesco Xaver,
- Urne for Cardinal Luigi Amat,