



THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

TECHNICAL NOTES

The series of tapestries depicting the *Life of Christ*, produced by the Barberini Manufactory, was created between 1643 and 1656, with some interruptions due to the death of Pope Urban VIII (1644) and the subsequent exile to France (1646-1652) imposed on Cardinal Francesco Barberini by the newly elected Pope Innocent X Pamphilj (1644-1655).

The first examples of the cycle, the *Nativity*, the *Pasce oves meas* and the *Resurrection of Christ*, were designed to be displayed as altarpieces in the papal chapel, most likely the Sistine Chapel, alternating between them on feast days.

The *Resurrection* tapestry on display here is the work of Giovan Francesco Romanelli (c. 1610-1662), a painter from Viterbo who worked in Pietro da Cortona's workshop and, like his master, was closely linked to the Barberini court. He was the author of the preparatory cartoon, the model for the final work, now preserved in the National Galleries of Ancient Art in Palazzo Barberini, while the tapestry was completed by Gaspare Rocci.



The refined composition shows the glory and power of the risen Christ, who stands out dramatically at the centre of the scene on the overturned tombstone, surrounded by clouds and golden lights in a Baroque triumph of moving figures. Around him, the soldiers guarding the tomb come to life and flee in terror. Every element of the depiction reflects the artistic culture of the Barberini period, bringing to mind the magnificent inventions of Giovan Lorenzo Bernini and the sumptuous pictorial decorations created by Pietro da Cortona, Andrea Sacchi and Romanelli himself in Palazzo Barberini, the family residence in Rome.

The visual power of Romanelli's creation, translated into tapestry, testifies to the expertise achieved by the Barberini Manufactory in Rome, which was able to transform Baroque forms and the creative dynamism of pictorial language into precious wool and silk weaves.



«Resurrection of Christ»