

Artist: Bernini

Title: The four rivers fountain

Date:1648

Location: Rome Italy

http://www.artble.com/artists/gian_lorenzo_bernini/sculpture/fountain_of_the_four_rivers

Commissioned in 1648 by Pope Innocent X the four rivers fountain was built to symbolize the four major rivers of the world. One for each continent (that were known at the time). The people of Rome were disappointed that this was built, it was during a famine and this is what the country gave the people when all they wanted was bread. The fountain is very theatrical from every angle, it shows figures and sculptures in action. One sculpture in particular raises his hands in front of his face to shield it from something. At the same time the fountain was being built across the piazza another building was being built. The two artists hated each other. So Bernini says his figure that faces that building is shielding his eyes from the monstrosity. The opposing artist says that he is shielding his eyes from the magnificence that is his building.

