

## **“Boys will be boys”: *the putto pissatore* in European Renaissance art**

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**ABSTRACT:** First popularised by the Italian sculptor Donatello (1386-1466), the *putto pissatore* (latterly *manneken pis*) has been an enduring presence in figurative art down to the present day (including as the national emblem of Belgium). This paper explores the various manifestations of that figure through the ages.

### **CV:**

Charles Avery is a specialist in European – especially in Italian – sculpture. A Cambridge Ph. D and Courtauld M.A.; then Deputy Keeper of Sculpture at the Victoria and Albert Museum (1966-79), and a Director of Christie's (1980-90), he has been an independent historian, consultant, writer and lecturer.

His books include *Florentine Renaissance Sculpture* (1970) and *Donatello: An Introduction* (1994); *Giambologna, the Complete Sculpture* (1987); *Bernini, Genius of the Baroque* (1997); and *A School of Dolphins*, (2009). He proudly contributed 'The Elephant and its ivory in the sculpture of Western Europe' to the *SOAS Elephant Reader* (2021).