

**White Marble Bust of Nobleman, on the original Verde Arno marble base.
1838 by Lodovico Caselli (Siena, 1817 – post 1862).**

Overall height: 23,62 in. (60 cm)

Signed and dated on the right side.



Literature:

Sandro Bellesi, *'Scultura e scultori all'Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze in età lorenese: normative, insegnamenti, collezioni d'arte. concorsi, commissioni, restauri e altro'* in *Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze Scultura 1784-1915*, Pisa, 2016, pp. 50, 55, 57, n. 188

Born in Siena, Caselli was a pupil of Louis Pampaloni and Aristodemo Costoli at the Academy of Florence, where in 1840 he shared the prize for sculpture with his rival, Giovanni Dupré (1817 – 1882). Little is known about the life and work of the Sienese sculptor.

In fact, before the important discovery of the present marble, only two other works had been identified as by his hand, a full-length portrayal of Paulo Mascagni (1852), the celebrated physician who had taught anatomical painting at the Accademia of the Belle Arti in Florence and another monumental marble group, signed and dated 1850, depicts the Old Testament story of Hagar and Ishmael, commissioned in 1850 by a British engineer, Mr. Elliot, who moved from England to Florence in 1825; housed in the family palazzo in the Santo Spirito area, the family name changed from Elliot to Fontana, as it remains to this day; by descent to his family, sold in Sotheby's New York, 2 February 2018, lot 335. (475.000,00 \$).

In 1838, Caselli exhibited two male portraits bust at Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence, one of which is probably the present work.