

**Author:** Siwiec Marek Kazimierz

**Title:** THE ARTIST AS A CREATOR (COMPOSER) AND AESTHETIC THOUGHT OF MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI (Twórca a myśl estetyczna Michała Anioła Buonarrotego)

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**Abstract** Who is the artist as a creator (composer) in Michelangelo Buonarroti's aesthetic thought and how could we define creativity? The author indicates that an artist is characterized by a specific capability – the capability of a creative change by means of which new values can be achieved. However, what does that creative change consist in? The author tries to enlighten the problem of an artist as a creator (composer) and creativity from two perspectives. Firstly, he discusses three main approaches to creativity in the history of aesthetics: God's creativity, artistic creativity (of a poet and artist) and human creativity (by people of different occupational backgrounds). Secondly, he attempts to determine the hidden dimensions of the phenomenon of an artist as a creator (composer) and creativity. He describes them as versatility, unity and sourcefulness. Those three dimensions are exemplified in an aesthetic motif contained in Michelangelo Buonarroti's emblem. That emblem constitutes a creative self-image of Michelangelo. In further considerations much attention is devoted to Michelangelo's poetry, in which the author tries to find the evidence of sourcefulness. It is in sourcefulness where he actually sees the main element of creative change. The symbols of fire and phoenix are interpreted as particular examples of that sourcefulness. In conclusion the author points out that Michelangelo's thought was an important step to shape the notion of artistic creativity. If creativity is determined by the three dimensions discussed, then the artist as a creator

(composer) turns out to be a person able to realize them in an act of creative change and in the process of creative activity.