

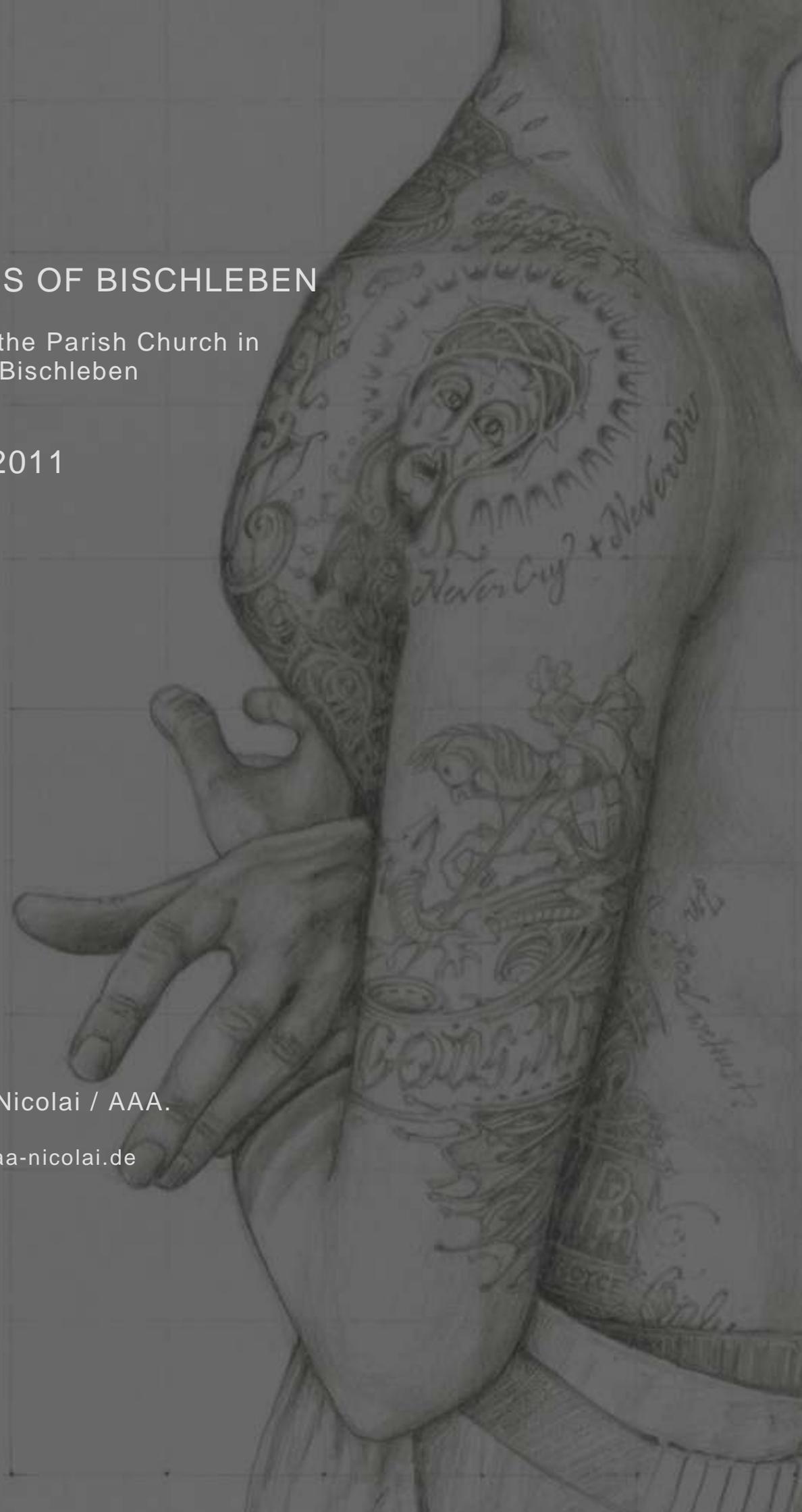
# HOLY BENIGNUS OF BISCHLEBEN

Patron Saint of the Parish Church in  
Erfurt-Bischleben

2011

Thomas Nicolai / AAA.

[www.aaa-nicolai.de](http://www.aaa-nicolai.de)



Benignus standing in front of the Roman tribunal, behind him the murmuring crowd. The potentates waiting for the revokement threateningly.

So much time passed by since the young Benignus was sent towards Gaul from Smyrna in the East by his old spiritual mentor. Go out into the wide world but never lock up your heart! In this mission the Apostolic Father Policarp said goodbye to his young fellow. Benignus didn't go out to convert people - the contract was to remain human, to salvage his own humanity. On the long and arduous journey Benignus was always true to his old masters words. He suffered many wounds but he didn't become hardened.

Actually his compassion for the infirm and the excluded made the difference to everybody else. His sensitive character couldn't bear all the injustice in a world of dog-eat-dog. He felt the suffering of others like his own. This compassion of a stranger could touch people and offered them a spark of hope. He didn't have to convince people once the people began to listen to him. He set a good example about what's right and wrong. The people followed him in his belief.

What was it, in which they believed these people? He was not sure about. Was it the right religious faith of his teacher Polycarp?

Benignus looked at the poor devils which he gave a spark of hope. A mysterious shine arose from these people since they accompanied him, a smile which let them stand their daily struggle. Benignus couldn't push them back into their old destiny! No, he couldn't get out of the story, he couldn't run away as much as he wanted to!

Benignus foresees the painful torture ahead. It makes his stomach turn, his legs become weak. He is petrified in the fact of the coming agony. He could just run away? ... Only a little word? ...

A look at those who confided in him. Their eyes like embers trained on him, entreating, fluctuating, awaiting, loving.

Benignus straightens himself up a last time, struggling against his mortal fear. His anger rising. Suddenly he knows that he will die for these poor souls, for their love and for their mysterious light.

Facing inescapable death his eyes drift away into the distance. The people are waiting.

Upright, defying death and with a gaze of horror Benignus made his choice. Silently giving his body over to the martyrdom.



























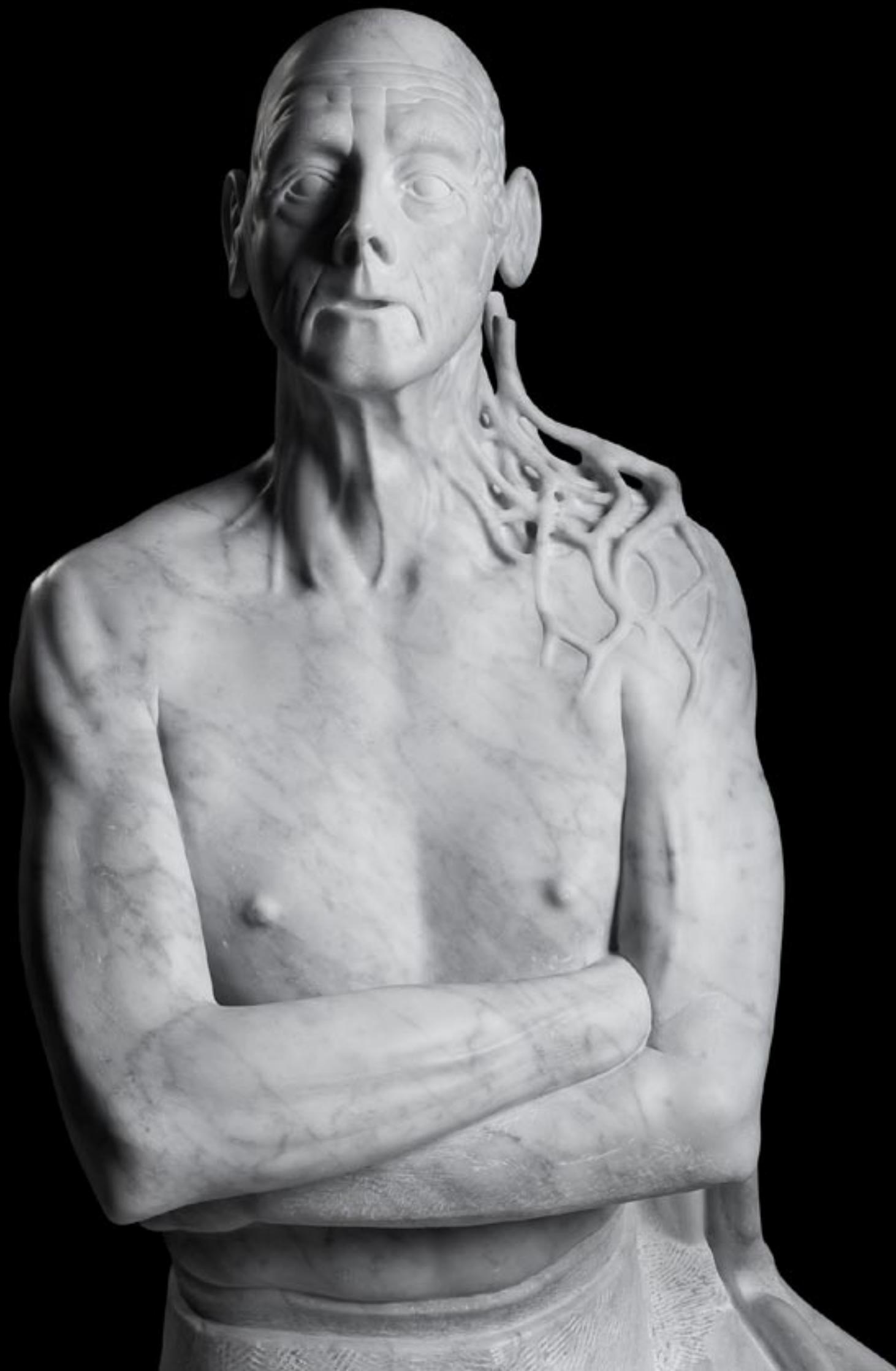












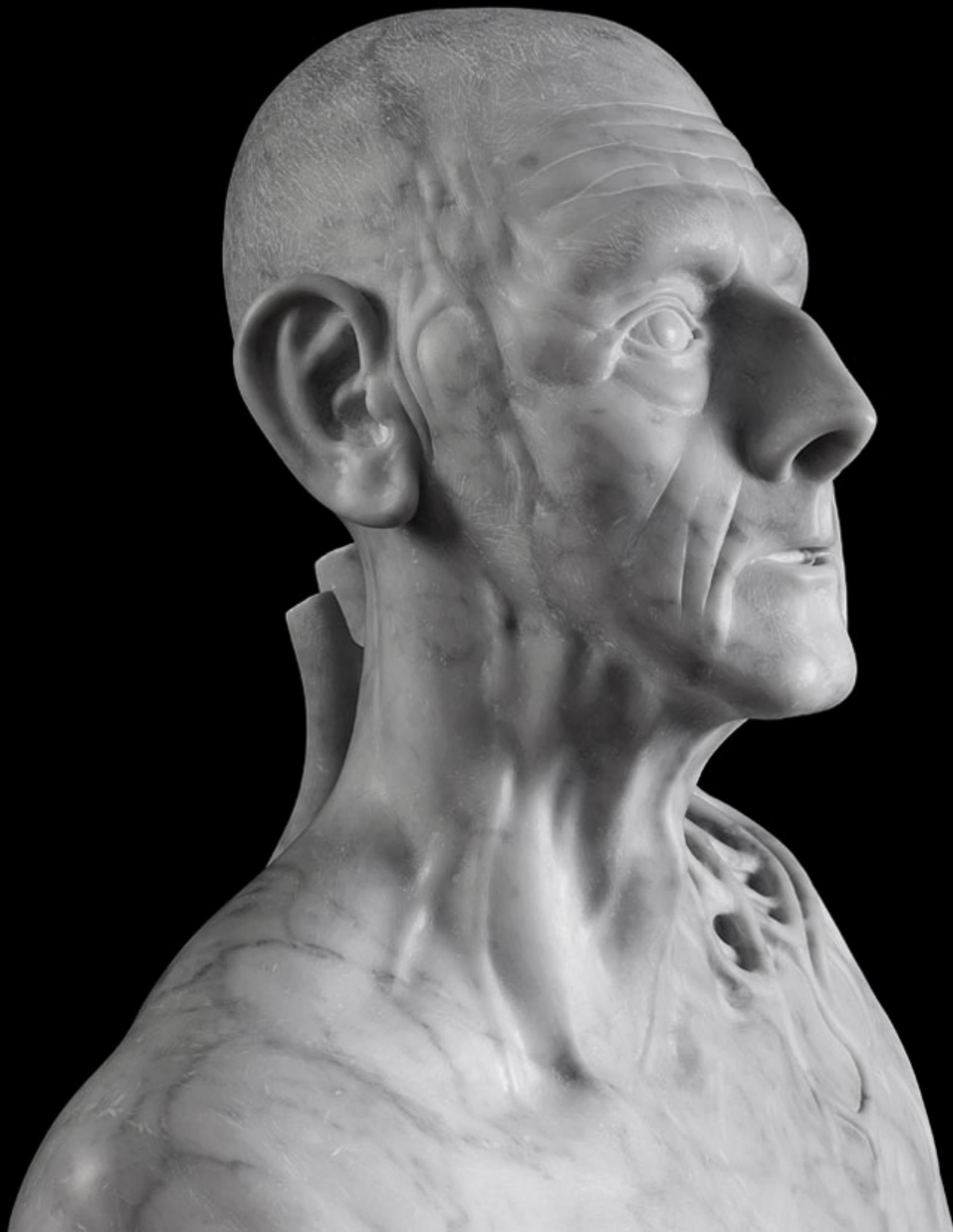




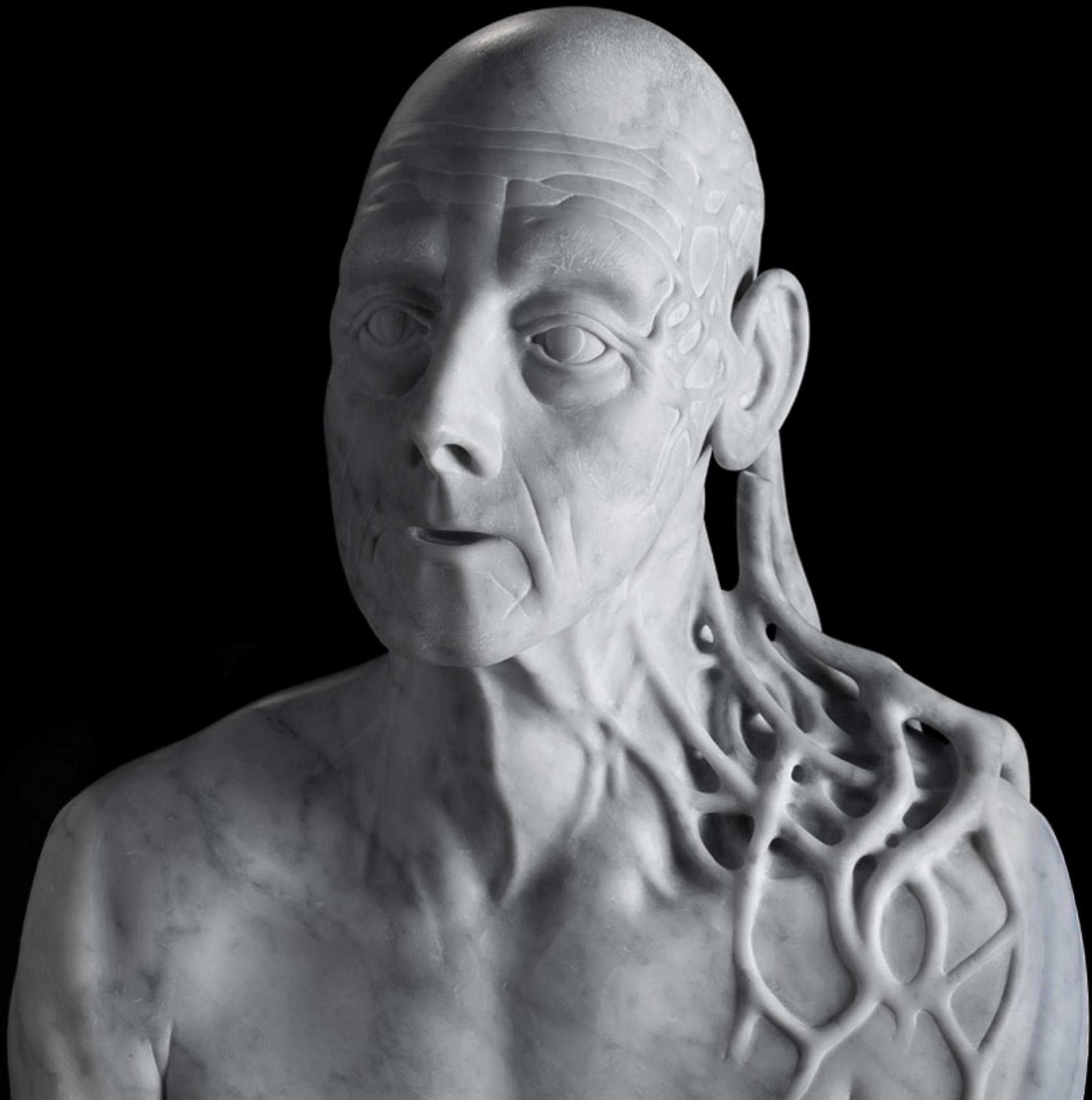










































## HOLY BENIGNUS OF BISCHLEBEN

missionary, martyr and patron saint, 2nd century AD  
/ titular saint of the evangelical parish church in Erfurt-Bischleben

Project duration: 2009-2011 (dedication since 2007)  
erection: 25th November 2011  
ceremonial establishment: 1st April 2012

material: Carrara marble  
sizes: block 190 x 95 x 95 cm  
height base 20 cm above ground + 10 cm embedded  
height sculpture 180 cm above ground

client: Vereinigte Kirchen- und Klosterkammer Erfurt  
supreme patron: Provost emeritus Elfriede Begrich  
local patron: Pastor Holger Lübs / parish church Erfurt-Bischleben

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