

Mediaeval stone sculpture

Different quarries operated throughout the Middle Ages in the territories of what is today Catalonia; in fact, the one in the bishopric of Urgell was (and still is) the largest. This is why stone Romanesque and Gothic sculptures are so plentiful in the country's collections. The most important works at the Diocesan Museum of Urgell come from the diocesan see and the counties of El Pallars, La Noguera and La Segarra.

The Romanesque pieces worth highlighting include the capitals from Santa Maria church in Tremp and the cathedral of Urgell, as well as the sarcophagi from Santa Maria church in Gualter.

In terms of Gothic sculpture, in addition to the images from Sant Pere church in Cubells and the Virgin of Sedó, of particular note is the Saint Bartholomew altarpiece from Cubells, whose original polychrome is still largely intact. It was sculpted in around 1390 by the Master of Albesa, one of the most representative sculptors from the Lleida school. It is surmounted by the image of Saint Bartholomew accompanied by four compartments depicting the story of his martyrdom. Christ Man of Sorrows, the Virgin Mary and Saint John are shown in half-body renderings on the pedestal, and nine apostles are illustrated on the predella or bench.