

Raphael: Suggested Reading

Paula Nuttall, June 2022



The literature on Raphael is vast; these are just some of the books that I have found useful, from old favourites to new studies.

David Ekserdjian and Tom Henry, *Raphael*, New Haven and London, 2022

The catalogue of the National Gallery's current exhibition is beautifully produced and makes a good souvenir, but as an addition to the literature is slightly disappointing. Though there are some interesting essays, the choice of topics is patchy, and the catalogue entries are (I think!) a bit thin.

Roger Jones and Nicholas Penny, *Raphael*, New Haven and London, 1983

Though published nearly forty years ago, this book remains arguably the best survey of the artist. Out of print but used copies available online.

Claudia La Malfa, *Raphael and the Antique*, London: Reaktion Books, 2020

This short, very accessible book is a good introduction, deftly melding a clear account of Raphael's career with an exploration of his responses to classical Antiquity. It is let down by inadequate illustrations; you need to look images up online (frustrating, though easily done on Google or using the Web Gallery of Art) to complement your reading.

Hugo Chapman, Tom Henry and Carol Plazzotta, *Raphael: From Urbino to Rome*, London: National Gallery, 2004

Excellent catalogue of the last National Gallery Raphael exhibition tracing the artist's career to about 1513. Out of print but used copies available online.

Paul Joannides and Tom Henry, *Late Raphael*, London: Thames and Hudson, 2013

The sequel to the London 2004 exhibition, this 2012 blockbuster at the Louvre and the Prado was the first to focus on late Raphael and was a milestone in the scholarship. This title is the English edition of the catalogue, out of print but findable online. The Prado website still has some videos of accompanying lectures (in English) and other multimedia offerings:

<https://www.museodelprado.es/en/whats-on/exhibition/late-raphael/95998d9e-fd59-43ac-bb37-3e41a7df8519>

Marzia Faietti and Matteo Lafranconi, eds., *Raphael, 1520-1483*, Milan: Skira, 2020

Doorstopper of a catalogue accompanying the 2020 Rome quincentenary exhibition.

Lavishly illustrated, with useful essays by leading scholars, it's a valuable up-to-date survey of the familiar stuff and sheds light on the less familiar as well, such as Raphael and the antiquities of Rome, and accounts of his death and funeral.

Catherine Whistler and Ben Thomas, *Raphael: The Drawings*, Oxford: Ashmolean Museum, 2017

For the drawings, and discussion of their role in Raphael's development and creative process, the catalogue of this recent exhibition is terrific. It also includes a handy illustrated chronology of his paintings.

Survey by Paul Joannides of the Raphael literature published for the 2020 quincentenary, providing a useful summary of the latest scholarly views:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/03/26/a-roman-raphael-how-scholars-view-the-old-master-at-500>