

Raphael: Fame and Fortune: Lecture 2 The Achievement of Fame

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Raphael's meteoric rise to fame in Rome is one of the most remarkable aspects of his remarkable career. Still a relatively unknown artist, he moved there in 1508, working as one of a team decorating the vaults of the new suite of rooms (Stanze) of Pope Julius II in the Vatican. By 1509 he was in sole charge. The first of the rooms to be completed, the Pope's private library, later known as the Stanza della Segnatura, was a professional and artistic milestone: on its completion in 1511 his skills were increasingly in demand. He was immediately assigned the next room, the private Papal audience chamber known as the Stanza d'Eliodoro, and undertook important commissions for altarpieces and chapels from the Roman elite. By the time Julius II died in 1513, Raphael was the favoured painter not only of the Papal court, but of bankers, humanists and clerics, eclipsing more established artists including his great rival Michelangelo. This a process that had taken less than five years; he was still only thirty years old.

Stylistically, as well as professionally, Raphael's trajectory in his early Roman years is astonishing. We can trace his rapid development from the serene, balanced scenography of the Stanza della Segnatura's *Disputa* and *School of Athens* to the increasingly dramatic *Expulsion of Heliodorus* and *Liberation of St Peter* in the Stanza d'Eliodoro, in which we see the seeds of his late style, or from the simple perfection of the *Sistine Madonna* (c. 1512) to the more complex *Madonna della Sedia* (c. 1514). All were groundbreaking works that pushed at the boundaries of what painting had hitherto achieved.

Slide List

All works are by Raphael unless otherwise indicated

View of Rome from Hartmann Schedel, *Weltchronik* (The Nuremberg Chronicle), Nuremberg, 1493

Pope Julius II, c. 1511, London, National Gallery

Stanza della Segnatura, Vatican, c. 1509-11

Theology from Stanza della Segnatura ceiling

Parnassus, c. 1509-11

The Disputa c. 1509-10

The Trinity, c.1507, Perugia, San Severo

Filippino Lippi, *The Triumph of St Thomas Aquinas*, 1488-93, Rome, S. Maria Sopra Minerva, Carafa Chapel

Studies for the *Disputa*, Royal Collection and Musée Fabre, Montpellier

The School of Athens, c.1510-11

Basilica of Maxentius, Rome, Forum

Maarten van Heemskerck, *Interior of St Peter's*, c.1532-36, Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett

Laocoon, Vatican Museums

Michelangelo, Sistine Ceiling, 1508-12

Raphael, Cartoon for *School of Athens*, Milan, Biblioteca Ambrosiana

Michelangelo, *Isaiah*, c. 1511, Sistine Chapel

Raphael, *Isaiah*, 1512, Rome, S. Agostino

Madonna di Foligno, c. 1512, Vatican Museums

Sistine Madonna, c.1512-14, Dresden, Gemäldegalerie

Madonna Alba, c. 1513, Washington, NGA

Madonna della Seggiola, c. 1513-14, Florence, Pitti Palace

Marcantonio Raimondi after Raphael, *Parnassus*, c. 1511, engraving

Study for *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1510, British Museum

Study for *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1510, Windsor Castle, Royal Collection

Marcantonio Raimondi after Raphael, *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1510, engraving, New York, MMA

Stanza d'Eliodoro (Stanza of Heliodorus), 1511-14

Cartoon for *Moses and the Burning Bush* (ceiling of Stanza of Heliodorus), Naples, Capodimonte

The Expulsion of Heliodorus

The Liberation of St Peter

Sebastiano del Piombo, *Man in Armour*, c. 1510-5, Hartford, CT, Wadsworth Atheneum

Portrait of a Woman (La Velata), c. 1512-14, Florence, Palazzo Pitti

Sebastiano del Piombo, *Portrait of a Woman ('Dorotea')*, c. 1511-12, Berlin, Gemäldegalerie

Rome, Villa Farnesina, Loggia of Galatea, c. 1512

Sebastiano del Piombo, *Polyphemus*

Raphael, *Galatea*

Sybils, Chigi Chapel, c. 1512-13 Rome, S. Maria della Pace

After a design by Raphael, *Christ in Limbo*, bronze roundel, Chiaravalle, Abbazia di Santa Maria

Study for a Sybil, British Museum

Self-portrait from the *School of Athens*, 1511