

Raphael: Fame and Fortune: Lecture 3

The Triumph of Fame

Paula Nuttall | March 2022

In 1514 the 31-year-old Raphael wrote that he was able to charge whatever he asked for his work. The final years of his life are marked by an almost frenzied activity. There were ambitious projects in the Vatican for Pope Leo X (who succeeded Julius II in 1513): the continuation of the Stanze; the vast Sala di Costantino (barely begun at the time of his death and completed by his workshop); the Logge; the cartoons for the Sistine Chapel tapestries, and two new roles that point to the direction his interests were moving in: architect in chief of St Peter's (following Bramante's death in 1514) and surveyor of ancient monuments in Rome. In addition, he embarked on two large projects for Agostino Chigi: the innovative, multi-media Chigi Chapel in Santa Maria del Popolo, and the light-hearted fresco decoration of the Loggia of Psyche at the Villa Farnesina (both unfinished at his death). In this whirlwind of activity, he still found time to design palaces and villas, to paint altarpieces for clients at home and abroad, and portraits of his friends at the Papal court. To cope with this workload, he relied on his talented workshop, yet there was no falling off in creativity; rather, the workshop testifies to his brilliance as a coordinator of large projects.

Raphael died at the height of his powers, on his 37th birthday, 6th April 1520, from a fever, probably malaria. His death plunged the Papal court into mourning; the newly completed *Transfiguration* was placed at the head of his bier while the luminaries of Rome paid their last respects; he was buried amidst great pomp, in an antique sarcophagus, in the Pantheon. In just 20 years, he had achieved fame and fortune unprecedented for an artist, leaving an estate worth 16,000 ducats and having been betrothed to the niece of an influential cardinal (she predeceased him). Remarkable as these facts are, his artistic development in this short space of time is more remarkable still. It is worth pondering what the course of European art might have been had he lived another fifty years, like his great rival Michelangelo.

Online Resource

For the Raphael Cartoons, including their technique, recent restoration, and tapestry weaving:
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/explore-the-raphael-cartoons#slideshow=3891&slide=0>

Slide List

All works are by Raphael unless otherwise stated

Pope Julius II, 1511, London, NG

Pope Leo X with Cardinals Giulio de' Medici and Luigi de' Rossi, 1518, Florence, Uffizi

The Repulse of Attila, Stanza d'Eliodoro

The Expulsion of Heliodoros

The Fire in the Borgo, c. 1514-17, Stanza dell' Incendio

Raphael and Workshop, Sala di Costantino, c. 1518-24

Justice and Friendship, Sala di Costantino c. 1520

Horace Vernet, *Pope Julius II orders Michelangelo, Bramante and Raphael to construct the Vatican and St Peter's* 1827, Paris, Louvre

Landscape with figures and ruins, c. 1512, Windsor Castle, Royal Collection

Anon., *The Colosseum and Arch of Constantine*, c. 1490-9, Codex Escorialensis, El Escorial, Royal Library

Study of one of the Quirinal Horses, c. 1513, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire

Raphael and workshop, Loggia of Leo X, Vatican, 1517-19

Procession with Leo X, Maiolica plate, c.1516, V&A

After Raphael, *Hanno the Elephant*, c. 1516, Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett

Francisco de Holanda, *Sketch of Hanno's Memorial*, c. 1538, El Escorial, Royal Library

Sistine Chapel with the Raphael tapestries in situ, February 2020

Raphael and Workshop, *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, 1515-16, V&A

Raphael (designed), Pieter van Aelst (woven), *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, 1517-19
Vatican Museums

Michelangelo, *The Erithraean Sybil*, Sistine Chapel, c. 1511-12

Raphael (designed c. 1513?), completed by Sebastiano del Piombo, Francesco Salviati and Bernini, Chigi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo

Raphael (designed) with medallion by Bernini, Tomb of Agostino Chigi

Raphael (designed) and Lorenzetto (sculpted), *Jonah*

Raphael (designed) and Luigi della Pace (mosaicist), Chigi Chapel Dome: *God the Father with the Sun, Moon and Planets*, 1516

Study for God the Father, c. 1514-15?, Oxford, Ashmolean

Michelangelo, *God Dividing the Light and Darkness*, c. 1511, Sistine Chapel

Raphael and workshop, Loggia of Psyche, c. 1518, Rome, Villa Farnesina

Raphael and workshop, *The Marriage of Cupid and Psyche*, Rome, Villa Farnesina

Study for the Three Graces, Windsor Castle, Royal Collection

?Raphael, *La Fornarina*, c. 1518-19, Rome, Galleria Borghese

Ingres, *Raphael and La Fornarina*, 1813, Cambridge MA, Fogg Museum

Cardinal Bibbiena, 1516, Florence, Pitti Palace

Ingres, *The Betrothal of Raphael and the Niece of, Cardinal Bibbiena*, 1813, Baltimore, Walters AG

Baldassare Castiglione, c. 1514-15, Louvre

Self-Portrait with a Friend, c. 1518-19, Louvre

The Holy Family of Francis I, 1518, Louvre

Study of Two Nudes, 1515, Vienna, Albertina

Bramante (designed), Palazzo Caprini (The House of Raphael), c. 1510. Formerly Rome, destr. 1937

Interior of the Pantheon, before 1509, Florence, Uffizi

Lorenzetto, *Virgin and Child*, 1520-4, Raphael's Tomb, Pantheon

Pierre-Nolasque Bergeret, *The Death of Raphael*, 1806, Chateau de Malmaison

Pietro Vanni, *The Funeral of Raphael*, 1896-1900, Vatican Museums

Raphael's Tomb (antique sarcophagus with inscription of 1520 by ?Pietro Bembo)

Leo X and Cardinal de' Medici, detail from *Pope Leo X with Cardinals Giulio de' Medici and Luigi de' Rossi*, 1518, Florence, Uffizi

Sebastiano del Piombo, *The Raising of Lazarus*, 1518-19, London, NG

Raphael, *The Transfiguration*, 1518-20, Vatican Museums

Sistine Madonna, c. 1512-13, Dresden, Gemäldegalerie

