



**Update: January 13, 2020** (original release date: September 27, 2019)

National Gallery of Art Celebrates 500th Anniversary of Raphael's Death in Exhibition on View February 16 through June 14, 2020



Raphael

*Eight Apostles*, c. 1514

red chalk over stylus underdrawing and traces of leadpoint on laid paper, cut in two pieces and rejoined; laid down sheet: 8.1 x 23.2 cm (3 3/16 x 9 1/8 in.)

support: 9.4 x 24.8 cm (3 11/16 x 9 3/4 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Washington, Woodner Collection

Washington, DC—Raphael (1483–1520) is recognized by many as the foremost figure of the classical tradition in Western painting. In celebration of the 500th anniversary of his death, the National Gallery of Art will present 26 prints and drawings from its own collection of works by Raphael's contemporaries that includes four drawings by the Renaissance master himself. ***Raphael and His Circle*** will convey the complexity, range, and immediate influence of his style as it became the standard for aesthetic excellence in Western art. The exhibition will be on view from February 16 through June 14, 2020.

## Raphael 500

Several major exhibitions have been organized to mark the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death. The Gallery offers its own homage through this exhibition and the display of its paintings by Raphael—the largest and most important group outside of Europe. The Galleria Nazionale delle Marche inaugurates the year's tribute with an exhibition in his hometown of Urbino (*Raphael and His Friends of Urbino*, October 3, 2019–January 19, 2020). The celebration continues with exhibitions at the

Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome (*Raffaello*, March 5–June 2, 2020), and the National Gallery, London (*The Credit Suisse Exhibition: Raphael*, October 3, 2020–January 24, 2021). The Gallery will loan *The Alba Madonna* (c. 1510) to the Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome as well as *Bindo Altoviti* (c. 1515) and *A Marble Horse on the Quirinal Hill* (c. 1513) to the National Gallery, London, in honor of this anniversary. At the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan, a newly conserved preparatory cartoon (c. 1508) for the Vatican fresco *School of Athens* (1509) is on view. The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, will be highlighting their set of seven full-scale cartoons by Raphael for tapestries.

## Exhibition Organization

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

## Exhibition Curator

The exhibition is curated by Jonathan Bober, Andrew W. Mellon Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings, National Gallery of Art.

## About the Exhibition

***Raphael and His Circle*** features 26 prints and drawings by Raphael's collaborators and followers, and by printmakers who were inspired by him. The exhibition includes four drawings by Raphael from the Gallery's collection: the sheet from which the design of his painting *Saint George and the Dragon* (c. 1506, National Gallery of Art, Washington) was transferred; the cartoon for the so-called *Belle Jardinière* (*La Vierge à l'Enfant avec le petit saint Jean-Baptiste*, 1507 or 1508, Musée du Louvre, Paris); a detailed representation of the prophets Hosea and Jonah; and a well-known study for part of the frescoes in the church of Santa Maria della Pace in Rome. Each of these drawings is an advanced preparatory study for an important extant work. Together they represent Raphael's immediate influence and artistic development.

Nine drawings by his closest collaborators and followers suggest the collective nature of Raphael's later activity and the origins of mannerism. Four pen-and-ink drawings by Giulio Romano (1499–1546) include a dramatic rendering of Saint Michael (c. 1530). Two chalk drawings by Polidoro da Caravaggio (c. 1499–probably 1543) feature a fleeing barbarian from the early 1520s and *A Deathbed Scene* (c. 1521/1522) with a drawing of a seated woman on the reverse in red chalk. Also on view are two pen-and-ink drawings by Perino del Vaga (1501–1547), including the remarkable *Alexander Consecrating the Altars for the Twelve Olympian Gods* (1545/1547) and a sheet of figure studies.

Raphael was the first artist to exploit the possibilities of printmaking to disseminate his inventions, enhance his reputation, and generate income. This practice caused his art to become a universal European language. Raphael's prints demonstrated to an international audience his magisterial

---

command of complex, multifigure compositions and his modern style rooted in the study of ancient art. This exhibition includes 10 engravings by one of the earliest interpreters of his designs, Marcantonio Raimondi (c. 1480–c. 1534), whose engravings of *Parnassus* and *The Holy Family*, as well as *The Massacre of the Innocents* (c. 1511) show Raphael's influence. Around 1510 Raphael began collaborating with Marcantonio on several engravings that successfully circulated Raphael's works beyond the Roman churches and palaces in which they were housed. Raimondi's followers, Agostino dei Musi (c. 1490–1536) and Marco Dente (c. 1493–1527), also directly reference works by Raphael in their engravings, including Musi's *The Battle with the Cutlass*. Also on view is Ugo da Carpi's (c. 1480–1532) *David Slaying Goliath*, based on a design by Raphael in the Vatican, which is the only chiaroscuro woodcut in the exhibition.

## **Raphael (1483–1520)**

Raffaello di Giovanni Santi, known as Raphael, was a younger contemporary of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, all of whom epitomize the High Renaissance in Italy. It is thought that Raphael's early training was with his father, who was a painter at the court of Urbino. He joined the workshop of Pietro Perugino sometime after the death of his father, when Raphael was 11 years old.

Late in 1504, Raphael moved to Florence, drawn by Leonardo's softly shadowed forms, natural figure groupings, and simplified settings. In 1508 the pope summoned Raphael to Rome, where he was influenced by the idealized classical art of the city's ancient past. He also responded to the more energetic and physical style of Michelangelo, whose works he had already begun to study in Florence. Raphael remained in Rome for the last 12 years of his life, preparing monumental frescoes for the papal chambers, designing tapestries for the Sistine Chapel, and painting mythological scenes. He was also the city's leading portraitist, creating penetrating images that engage viewer and sitter with a new intensity for the time. When he died at age 37, the pope ordered that Raphael, who had been keeper of antiquities, be buried in the Pantheon.

Update: January 13, 2020

*This update includes an additional information on Raphael 500.*

### **Press Contact:**

Laurie Tylec, (202) 842-6355 or [l-tylec@nga.gov](mailto:l-tylec@nga.gov)

## **General Information**

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the

---

Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt), Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ngadc](http://www.twitter.com/ngadc), and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Department of Communications

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353

e-mail: [pressinfo@nga.gov](mailto:pressinfo@nga.gov)

Anabeth Guthrie

Chief of Communications

(202) 842-6804

[a-guthrie@nga.gov](mailto:a-guthrie@nga.gov)

## Newsletters

FOR JOURNALISTS:

[Sign up here](#) to receive the latest news briefs from the National Gallery of Art Communications Office.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Gallery also offers a broad range of newsletters for various interests. [Follow this link to view the complete list.](#)

---

PRESS KIT ▼

**Exhibition Press Release**

[Exhibition Checklist](#) (PDF 302 KB)

[Order Exhibition Press Images](#)

---

---

PRESS CONTACT ▼

Laurie Tylec  
(202) 842-6355  
[l-tylec@nga.gov](mailto:l-tylec@nga.gov)

---

Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or [pressinfo@nga.gov](mailto:pressinfo@nga.gov)

The public may call (202) 737-4215 or visit [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov) for more information about the **National Gallery of Art**.

RSS (NEWS FEED)

[http://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/press/rss/press\\_feed.xml](http://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/press/rss/press_feed.xml)

---



© 2019 National Gallery of Art

---