



RAPHAEL: A MASTER IN THE MAKING

SIÂN WALTERS

The Arts Society Fylde by Zoom

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St Catherine of Alexandria, c.1507, National Gallery, London

Although we cannot welcome Siân Walters to the Fylde Coast in person, we are assured of a special introduction to one of the three giants of the High Renaissance in Italy. Raphael (1483-1520) stands alongside Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, yet his fame and position in the canon of art history may seem hard to explain. He made no discoveries like those of his celebrated rivals: although undoubtedly a draughtsman of exceptional talent he made no great progress in the fields of anatomy, science and construction nor did he share the wide-ranging talents which Leonardo and Michelangelo demonstrated in so many disciplines. Furthermore, his career was short-lived as he died tragically young, five hundred years ago, aged only 37. Yet in this relatively short lifetime, Raphael managed to move from humble initial commissions in and around his home town of Urbino to the coveted position of one of the leading artists at the court of the most important patron in Italy, Pope Julius II, for whom he created some of the most sublime and influential frescoes of the early 16th century. With help from today's expert lecturer, we explore how Raphael achieved this extraordinary rise in status, tracing the development of early works and influences to the masterpieces created in Rome.

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Siân Walters is an art historian and the director of Art History in Focus. She has been a lecturer at the National Gallery for over 20 years and also works for Wallace Collection, The Arts Society and leads specialist art tours abroad. Siân was a lecturer at Surrey University for many years and has worked in France and Venice. Her specialist areas of research are 15th- and 16th- century Italian painting, Spanish art and architecture, Flemish and Dutch painting and the relationship between art and dance. Siân presented the very first online courses for The National Gallery, The Wallace Collection and The Arts Society.

Siân has recently launched a new mini-series of online webinars in which she collaborates with friends and colleagues around the world, enabling the enjoyment of cultural experiences together. Full details are at: www.arthistoryinfocus.com/courses/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Raphael, From Urbino to Rome (2007), National Gallery Company

Forcelino, Antonio: Raphael (2015), Polity Press

Whistler, Catherine: Raphael the Drawings (2017), Ashmolean Museum

Raphael - the exhibition in Rome can be viewed free online on YouTube ("Una passeggiata in mostra")

The Credit Suisse Raphael exhibition planned by the National Gallery for 2020 will now take place in 2022