

The life and times of Raphael

Raphael, renowned master artist of the Italian High Renaissance, died on April 6, 1520



○ **1500:** Raphael completes apprenticeship, becoming "Master". Works from this period include *An Allegory (Vision of a Knight)* (detail bottom left)

○ **1504-1508:** Based in Florence, birthplace of High Renaissance, where influential contemporaries include *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Michelangelo Buonarroti*



○ **1512:** With growing interest in architecture, Raphael designs *Chigi Chapel* in *Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo* in Rome

○ **1514:** Engaged to *Maria Bibbiena*, niece of *Cardinal Bibbiena*. Known for his womanising, he remained devoted to his mistress *Margherita Luti*, known as *La Fornarina* (below)



○ On death of architect *Donato Bramante*, *Pope Leo X* appoints Raphael to continue redesign of *St. Peter's Basilica* – where he amends Bramante's plans

○ **Apr 6, 1483:** Born *Raffaello Sanzio* in Urbino. Father, *Giovanni Santi*, is court painter to Duke of Urbino

○ Giovanni teaches Raphael drawing and painting techniques (self portrait above). Growing up in court of *Duke Guidobaldo da Montefeltro* (below), Raphael learns excellent manners and social skills that will benefit him in later life when he mixes effortlessly in highest social circles



○ Inspired by Leonardo, Raphael experiments with painting Madonnas, including *La Belle Jardinière* (below). He also paints *The Deposition* (detail above right)



○ **Oct 1491:** Raphael's mother, *Măgia*, dies in childbirth. Giovanni soon remarries

○ **Aug 1494:** Giovanni dies, leaving Raphael, aged 11, sole heir to his workshop. Studying under *Perugino*, he quickly surpasses his father's success



○ **1508:** Aged 25, Raphael is invited to Rome by *Pope Julius II* who commissions him to paint series of monumental frescoes in papal apartments. In *Stanza della Segnatura* he creates arguably his most celebrated work, *The School of Athens* (above), which includes small self portrait by pillar on right

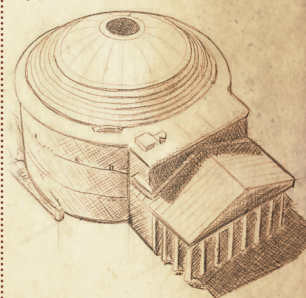


○ Four rooms, collectively known as *Stanze di Raffaello* (Raphael Rooms) attract millions of visitors to *Vatican Museums* each year

○ Raphael continues to paint Madonnas, including *Madonna della Seggiola* (right)

○ **1517:** Purchases *Palazzo Caprini* – grand palace designed by Bramante

○ **Apr 6, 1520:** Raphael dies on his 37th birthday, from mystery illness. Bequeaths possessions to two studio assistants and leaves funds to care for Luti



○ After grand funeral he is interred in *Pantheon* at his own request

○ Most of his work on St Peter's is altered or demolished to make way for Michelangelo's designs

