





Madonna *della* Seggiola

This is one of Raphael's non-linear works. The figures are in proportion, but the geometrical form of the painting is not strict. The colors are very warm, lending to the overall maternal image Raphael sought for.



Madonna of the Meadow

The Madonna of the Meadow is a very well-known painting. The deep blue and red of Mary's outfit contrast beautifully with the white skin of the babies. Jesus is in her arms, and his cousin, John the Baptist kneels before him.

The painting is in a museum in Vienna today.

Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel. He was considered a patron of the arts.



Portrait of Pope Julius II

Portraits

Renaissance artists were commonly employed for portraits. There were no cameras, remember!

The portrait of Bindo Altoviti is particularly well known for its elegance. The figure is very graceful and attractive.

Portrait of Bindo Altoviti



Bindo Altoviti was a banker and a patron of the arts.

St. George & The Dragon



Raphael painted this when he was 21 years old. He learned to paint by observing the works of Leonardo DaVinci and Michelangelo. This painting is a good example of **foreshortening**. Do you see that the rear of the horse is bigger than the front? This makes it look like the horse is angled away from the viewer. Foreshortening makes the flat painting look three-dimensional.

St. George was a soldier who lived 300 years before Christ. He is said to have saved a princess from a dragon that was terrorizing a village. He is painted like a knight in shining armor, and embodied the knight's ideals of chivalry.



THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS

This is Raphael's most famous painting. Philosophers, scientists and mathematicians all meet and debate with one another. They are the greatest thinkers of all time. Plato and Aristotle are in the center, discussing the difference between pure ideas and natural science.



Mathematicians



Philosophers

The vanishing point in this painting is where the horizon would be if you could see it behind Plato and Aristotle. This is typical of linear perspective, which creates the illusion of three-dimensional space on a flat surface area.

The Sistine Madonna

Shown are the Virgin, Jesus, St. Sixtus and St. Barbara. The painting was located originally at the convent of St. Sixtus. It was painted to symbolize a funeral ceremony.

The space in this painting is made up by the figures in it. Mary descends from Heaven, hesitant yet confident looking. Her majestic air has constantly impressed viewers.



These angels are often put on greeting cards and other items.

The Triumph *of* Galatea

In mythology, Galatea is a sea-nymph who fell in love with a shepherd named Acis. A Cyclops fell in love with her, and jealous of Acis, killed him. Galatea turned Acis into a river to carry her away from the Cyclops. In this painting, she is escaping with the help of two dolphins and many sea nymphs. Cupid's helpers try to get her, but she is out of their reach.



The Greeks and Romans told stories of dolphins protecting people from the dangers of the sea, like sharks.



TRANSFIGURATION



The Transfiguration was Raphael's last painting. He was worn out with long days of work. For two weeks he lingered with a high fever, and then passed away on Good Friday, the day of Christ's death.

The Transfiguration is a scene in the Bible. On mount Tabor, three of Christ's disciples (below Christ) saw him change. He began to shine like the sun. The prophets, Moses and Elijah (levitating next to Christ) appeared and spoke to him. Then God's voice was heard: "This is my beloved son, listen to him."

In Biblical times, people with diseases like epilepsy were thought to have been possessed by the devil. The people in the painting are asking God to cure their son.

