

RA

Press Release

Royal Academy of Arts

Michelangelo Leonardo Raphael

Florence, c. 1504

Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael: Florence, c. 1504

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

9 November 2024 – 16 February 2025

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Christian Levett
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On 25 January 1504, Florence's most prominent artists gathered to advise on an appropriate location for Michelangelo's nearly finished *David*. Among them was Leonardo, who – like Michelangelo – had only recently returned to his native Florence. *Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael: Florence, c. 1504* will explore the rivalry between Michelangelo and Leonardo, and the influence both had on the young Raphael. The exhibition will present over 40 works, including Michelangelo's *Taddei Tondo*, Leonardo's *Burlington House Cartoon* and Raphael's *Bridgewater Madonna*, as well as some of the finest drawings from the Italian Renaissance.

The exhibition will open with Michelangelo's only marble sculpture in the UK, his celebrated *Taddei Tondo*, c. 1504-05 (Royal Academy of Arts, London), which will be shown together with its related preparatory drawings. The *Taddei Tondo* was created in a defining moment of the Italian Renaissance: the febrile atmosphere of Republican Florence, when Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael briefly crossed paths, competing for the attention of Florence's most influential patrons. The relief left an indelible impact on Raphael, as can be seen most notably in the *Bridgewater Madonna*, c. 1507-08 (Bridgewater Collection Loan, National Galleries of Scotland), and the *Esterházy Madonna*, c. 1508 (Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest), both of which will be displayed nearby.

The central gallery will be devoted to Leonardo's *Burlington House Cartoon*, c. 1506-08 (The National Gallery, London), which will return to the Royal Academy for the first time in over 60 years. The exhibition and the accompanying catalogue will present new research regarding the original context of the cartoon.

The exhibition will culminate with drawings showcasing the mythic encounter between Leonardo and Michelangelo. In 1503, the Government of Florence had commissioned Leonardo to paint a monumental mural, the *Battle of Anghiari*, in its newly constructed council hall. In late August or early September 1504, around the time Michelangelo's *David* was installed on the *ringhiera* in front of the Palazzo Vecchio, Michelangelo was asked to paint the accompanying *Battle of Cascina*. Neither project

was ever completed, but the exhibition will bring together Leonardo and Michelangelo's much-admired preparatory drawings from various collections across Europe, including an important group lent by His Majesty The King from the Royal Collection, providing a fascinating insight into the approach of both artists as they developed their compositions. The exhibition will conclude with a drawing by Raphael, c. 1505-06 (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford), in which he painstakingly copies the central scene of Leonardo's *Battle of Anghiari*.

Organisation

Exhibition organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in partnership with Royal Collection Trust and the National Gallery, London. The exhibition is curated by Scott Nethersole, Professor for History of Art and Architecture at Radboud University, and Per Rumberg, the Jacob Rothschild Head of the Curatorial Department at the National Gallery, with Julien Domercq, Curator at the Royal Academy, and Natasha Fyffe, Genesis Future Curator at the Royal Academy.

Catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with texts by Scott Nethersole and Per Rumberg.

Dates and Opening Hours

Press view: Tuesday 5 November 2024, 10am-1pm
Dates: Saturday 9 November 2024 – Sunday 16 February 2025
10am – 6pm Tuesday to Sunday
10am – 9pm Friday

Admission

From £19; concessions available; under 16s go free ([T&Cs apply](#)); Friends of the RA go free.
25 & Under: 16 to 25 year olds can access a half-price ticket ([T&Cs apply](#)).

Tickets

Advance booking with pre-booked timed tickets is recommended for everyone, including Friends of the RA. Tickets can be booked in advance online (royalacademy.org.uk) or phone (0207 300 8090).

Images

Publicity images for *Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael: Florence, c. 1504*, can be downloaded via this [link](#). By downloading the images, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions. These images can only be reproduced to illustrate a review or criticism of a work or report as defined by section 30 (i) and (ii) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

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About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy is an independent charity. It does not receive revenue funding from the government so is reliant upon the support of its visitors, donors, sponsors, patrons and loyal Friends.

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18.07.24