

Biography of Raffaello di Sanzio



One of the triumvirate of High Renaissance art (along with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci), Raffaello Sanzio (or Santi), known as Raphael, was born in Urbino, Marche, Italy, on April 6, 1483. He was born on Holy Friday at three hours of the night. There are doubts regarding his exact date of birth. It's either April 6 or March 28, 1483.

Early years at Urbino

Raphael was the son of Giovanni Santi and Magia di Battista Ciarla. His mother died in 1491. His father was, according to the 16th-century artist and biographer Giorgio Vasari, a painter "of no great merit." He was, however, a man of culture who was in constant contact with the advanced artistic ideas current at the court of Urbino. He gave his son his first instruction in painting, and, before his death in 1494, when Raphael was 11, he had introduced the boy to humanistic philosophy at the court.

The Urbino



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Apprenticeship at Perugia



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The great Umbrian master Pietro Perugino was executing the frescoes in the Collegio del Cambio at Perugia between 1498 and 1500, enabling Raphael, as a member of his workshop, to acquire extensive professional knowledge.

In 1508, Raphael was invited to Rome by Pope Julius II. The pope asked Raphael to paint some rooms in the Vatican. This was at the same time as Michelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel, and although the Sistine chapel overshadowed the work of Raphael, his paintings are still considered some of the finest of European art. This work included some of masterpieces such as – The School of Athens, The Parnassus and the Disputa.



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The School of Athens



The School of Athens



As well as being a great painter, Raphael was also a noted teacher, who could inspire his fellow pupils to greater standards. He had one of the largest art schools in Rome, with over 50 pupils. His enthusiasm and talent helped his school become a famous place of art.



*He died in April 6
1570, aged only 37.
Yet, he left behind a
considerable legacy
and was celebrated
even during his
lifetime, thousands
of people attended
his funeral*



The altar of the family



*The battle of St. George
with the dragon*



Madonna



Portrait Of A Woman



The Sistine Madonna



Saint Michael and the devil



The End