

## THE RAPHAEL CARTOONS

### IN THE V&A DESIGNED FOR THE VATICAN TAPESTRIES FOR THE SISTINE CHAPEL



*Pieter van Aelst, The Miraculous Draft of Fishes, from Raphael's Cartoon, Tapestry, Vatican Museums. 1515/16*

In this Raphael year commemorating 500 years from his death in 1520 with the many events organised in Italy, England and other parts of the world, the Victoria & Albert Museum will reopen the Raphael Cartoons Room which has been under restoration from last year. The Cartoons here on loan from Queen Victoria were offered in honour of Prince Albert, after his death, to the Museum he created and supported after the Crystal Palace Exhibition.

Considered from the end of 18 C by most British art experts as the greatest Renaissance treasure in the country and Raphael's most important Art Work, they have had an incredibly chequered history well worth knowing. That is why I think that to present them and discuss them in a Zoom meeting may be interesting especially for those of you who know already quite a lot of Raphael's art and work practices.

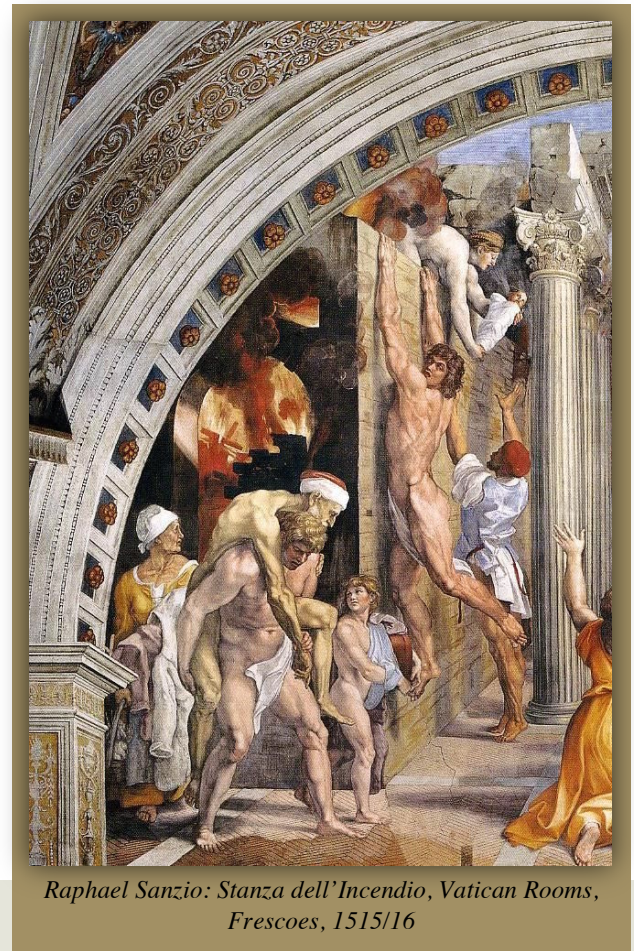
Few people visit it in the Museum's Hall perhaps due to the light which to protect them is kept at a very low level and hoping that after the renovation of the Hall they will have found a way to present them "in a new light". It will become a far greater experience to visit them again.

Painted by Raphael and his main assistants in 1515/16, in the most exciting moment of his final style but having to be shown not by his painter's hands but by the stitches of the greatest Tapestry weaver at the time, Pieter van Aelst, the Biblical events had to be expressed in the dramatic narrative Raphael used in his later Vatican Rooms, his drawings and compositions.

In 1865 when the scheme received the assent of Queen Victoria and later of each future sovereign, the Cartoons remained in London to illustrate "the purest and the noblest genius whom the history of mankind can boast".

Looking forward to seeing you at least virtually.  
With my best wishes

**Rosa Maria Letts**



*Raphael Sanzio: Stanza dell'Incendio, Vatican Rooms, Frescoes, 1515/16*

**COST OF ZOOM LECTURE ON 24 JUNE AT 6 PM (UK TIME)**

Members - £ 12 | Others - £ 14 **Credit / Debit Cards accepted**

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