

A detail from Raphael's fresco 'The Fall of Man' in the Vatican Museums. The scene depicts Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam is shown in the upper left, leaning forward and pointing towards the forbidden fruit. Eve is in the lower right, holding a large red banner. In the foreground, a group of soldiers and horses are gathered, some looking towards the figures in the sky. The background shows a landscape with trees and a distant city.

Raphael in Rome

Style, technique, conservation

EDIZIONI MUSEI VATICANI

Presentation

During the last ten years, the *Edizioni Musei Vaticani* have published many results of research, restoration and numerous other activities that take place behind the walls of the Vatican Museums, the Pope's Museums. As Director, I am particularly proud of what has been achieved, always in the name of excellence.

This publication, which is the result of the skilful work undertaken by several specialists, within the Vatican and outside, in relation to the *Divine Raphael*, is a further and valuable enrichment of all this.

The studies proposed at the 2014 conference are now available for the many interested people who were unable to attend the meeting or who wish to refresh their knowledge of what was said at the time.

Acknowledgements are therefore due to Barbara Agosti and Silvia Ginzburg for adapting the contributions into a coherent text, important for studies on Raphael, also in view of the upcoming fifth centenary of the death of the artist two years from now, which we are preparing to celebrate.

The editors of this work have been able to harmonize contributions that present different aspects of Raphael, the master of the Vatican Rooms: from Sylvia Ferino-Pagden's essay, focusing on the problems of methodology, to the more technical texts on restorations by Paolo Violini and Arnold Nesselrath, and many more.

Special thanks are due to Federico Di Cesare, Head of our Publications Office, and his colleagues: they have followed this work with their characteristic affirmed patience, offering it to us in an elegant and refined form; and to Paolo Violini, for his help to the editors.

An affectionate thought goes also to Antonio Paolucci who, as a great Raphaelist and tireless promoter of Vatican restorations, cared deeply about the outcome of this research. He will no doubt be satisfied with a work that is as fascinating for him as it is for all of us.

Barbara Jatta
Director of the Vatican Museums