

Living Images: A Conversation Between the Sistine Chapel and the Cathedral of St. Paul

Emmanuel Masqueray, in designing the 4th Cathedral of Saint Paul, drew on his beaux arts education. With its Renaissance design influences, the architectural style offers an excellent backdrop for this exhibition featuring art of the Sistine Chapel, built during the High Renaissance between 1477 and 1480.

The walls of the Sistine Chapel were painted by several of the leading artists of the late 15th century including Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, and Pietro Perugino. In 1508, Pope Julius brought in Michelangelo (1475-1564) to paint the ceiling. Michelangelo was a well-known sculptor, having completed the statues of David and the Pieta – a reproduction of which is in this Cathedral's Founders' Chapel. Over a four-year period during which he worked on scaffolding, Michelangelo produced a masterpiece.

Michelangelo's ties to the Vatican continued for the rest of his life. Working during the tumultuous years of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation, he returned to the chapel in 1537 to paint *The Last Judgement* on the altar wall. Pope Paul III called him back in 1546 to be the chief architect of St. Peter's Basilica (construction dates: 1506-1626). Michelangelo developed the plan to support its great dome, a landmark in Rome today.

In 2019, Callaway, based in New York City, working with the Vatican Museums and the Italian art publisher, Scripta Manent of Bologna, Italy, published an over-sized three-volume set of books featuring ultra-high-end resolution digital photography of the artwork of the Sistine Chapel. Through a generous donation to the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, we can make the books available to visitors. The titles include: *The Sistine Chapel: Volume I. The Frescoes of the 15th Century*, Volume II. *The Ceiling*, and Volume III. *The Last Judgement*. The books will be on display in the Cathedral near the Chapel of St. Joseph, one book a month, from June through August 2024. By reading the accompanying stories posted with the exhibit, visitors will be encouraged to reflect on the magnificent artwork and connections to the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

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196 words

Sistine Chapel Artwork Exhibition

Cathedral of St. Paul

Exhibit Label

Recommended text size:

24 point for text, 36 point for headings

A devout Catholic, his art has been described as trying to translate into visible forms the invisible beauty and majesty of God.