



The Artist in Question

**RAPHAEL**

Tuesday 18 February

Raphael died in 1520, 500 years ago. His reputation since his death reached its zenith in the 19c, when his talent was seen as divine. When Charles I bought the Raphael tapestry cartoons, now on loan by Her Majesty the Queen to the V & A Museum, they were seen as contributing immeasurably to Britain's image of itself as a Renaissance country. Raphael was influential on Titian, the Carracci, Poussin, Ingres, the Nazarenes and Renoir, and by default, on the Pre-Raphaelites. He was like a great theatre director, able to position and light each of his protagonists to best effect. His greatest compositions, far from being static, have an emotional punch far beyond their apparent weight. His colouring is beautifully-planned, his anatomy perfect, his ability to paint even angels flying through the sky (for which of course there could be no models) truly miraculous. Commissioned by Popes and Princes, his work in Rome gave the entire Papal Court a new image of itself. His Stanze (rooms) in the Vatican ring through the ages as masterpieces of composition, hugely influential on anyone lucky enough to see them.

All Culture in Question lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lectures begin at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. The event ends by 3.30 p.m. £90 members, £100 non-members.