

# Renaissance Art Hunt #2

## MICHELANGELO

## BUONARROTI

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VERONA, ITALY

Photos of works taken from trip to Florence in 2018 and Milan in 2019

Author of "All Around Michelangelo: Out of Control in the Renaissance"



## SECOND ARTIST OF THE SERIES

1. Leonardo da Vinci
2. Michelangelo
3. Raffaello
4. Titian
5. Tintoretto
6. Giulio Romano
7. OTHERS



# MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI

(1475-1564)

- The lone wolf, the dogged fighter
- Earned himself a crooked nose in a fight as a youth
- Who strove after beauty (possibly because he was not considered beautiful)
- He saw himself as a sculptor first, even though he was a talented painter and architect
- He is seen as the symbolic artist, single-minded, tormented, rarely satisfied with his work (many were not finished)
- Father was a minor aristocratic (former Mayor) though they were relatively poor
- Received patronage from the Medici family, studying the antiquity sculptures in their garden, then taken into their household.
- At 18 he was given special permission to study the anatomy of dissected corpses at a monastery, in exchange for a crucifix he made for the monastery

**Buonarroti, Il re dell'inquietudine**, Giovanni Montanaro, Corriere della sera, 12 gennaio 2020

“Nacque nel 1475 a Caprese, un paese nel Casentino nel quale il padre faceva il podestà per irrisoria somma di 500 lire per sei mesi, cavalli e notai a carico. La sua famiglia era stata ricca, ma era in disgrazia, e Michelangelo Buonarroti fu costretto a fare l'artigiano, prima di essere un artista. A 12 anni entrò a bottega dal Ghirlandaio, crebbe veloce. Incontrò quindicenne Lorenzo de' Medici nel giardino di San Marco, dove il Magnifico collezionava statue. Il signore di Firenze criticò il suo fauno, perché un vecchio non poteva avere denti giovani, e con due colpi di scalpello Michelangelo lo sistemò.

Fu prima di tutto scultore, in un'epoca in cui gli uomini scoprivano i volti e i corpi antichi, la possibilità di una perfezione umana. Scolpì un Cupido e, per guadagnare di più, lo seppellì sottoterra per rivenderlo come una statua romana, guardano 200 ducati anziché 15, ma il suo gioco fu scoperto dal Cardinal Riario, potente committente romano, che lo costrinse a restituire il prezzo. Ormai, però la sua fama cominciava. Un cardinale Francese, Jean de Bilhères de la Groslaye, gli chiese discolpare una pietà per la sua tomba, quella che oggi è a San Pietro; la Madonna giovanissima, i corpi pieni di vita perduta.”

Andrò a Carrara per il marmo, ne comprò diversi blocchi; voleva creare anche senza committente, sicuro che avrebbe venduto.”

# PIETÀ,

1497-1499 , marble, (1.7 m x 1.95 m), Basilica of Saint Peter's, Vatican



- The "Pietà" is a masterpiece of Michelangelo's youth
- This highly finished sculpture shows, that at age **twenty-five**, he had mastered anatomy and the rendering of drapery.
- The major artistic problem that he solved, however, was the successful representation of a full grown man lying across the lap of a woman. The figures are contained in a pyramidal composition.
- The mood is contemplative.
- Idealized beauty and calm acceptance of suffering and God's will
- This is the only worked he signed: his name is carved on a band across the Virgin's breast









In St. Peter's, Vatican. The statue was commissioned for the French Cardinal Jean de Bilhères, who was the French ambassador in Rome.

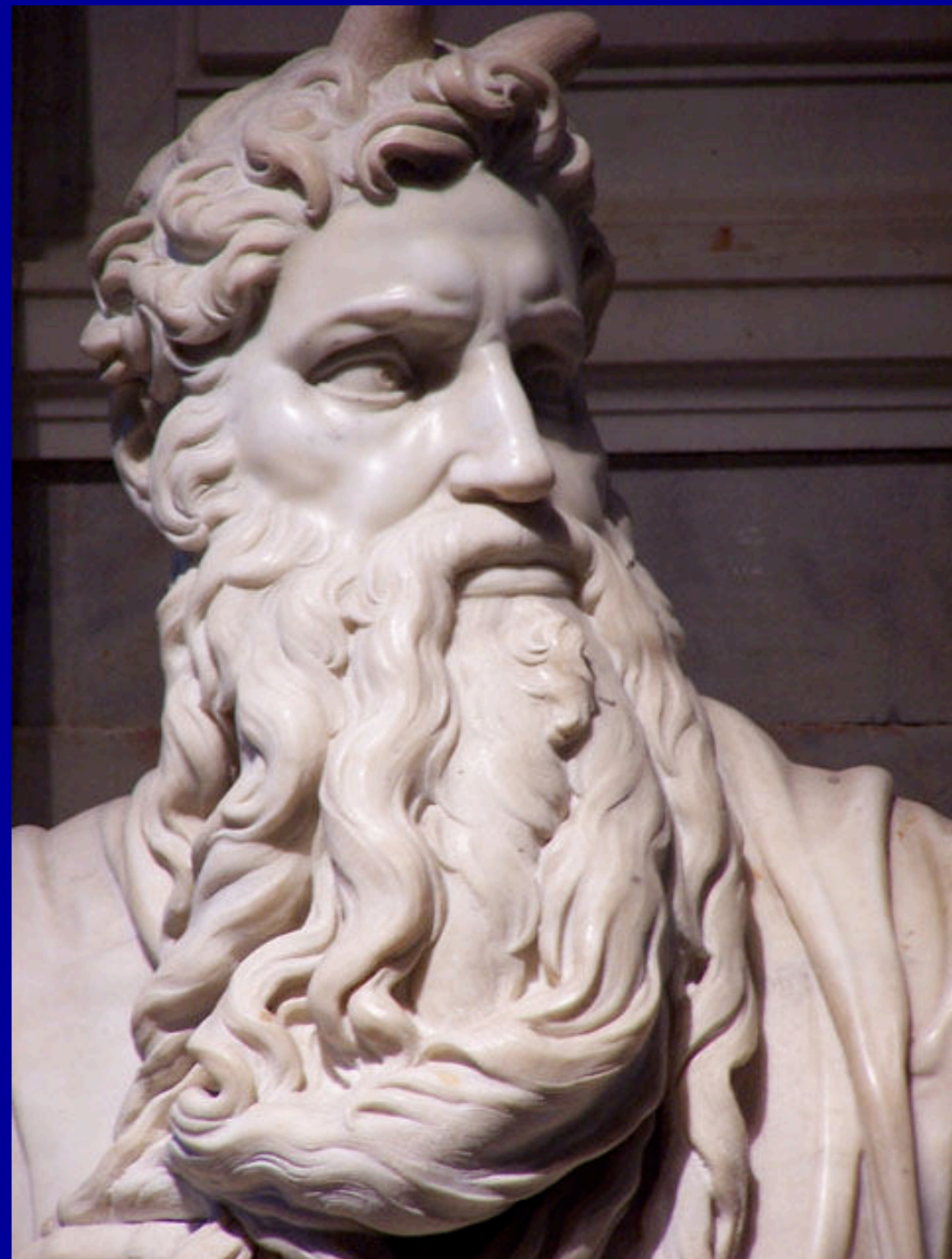


**Buonarroti, Il re dell'inquietudine**, Giovanni Montanaro, Corriere della sera, 12 gennaio 2020

....Continuò a scolpire per tutta la vita.

L'imponente **David** che consegnò alla città di Firenze, l'enigmatico **Mosé** della tomba di Giulio II, cui pensò per 40 anni, I **Prigioni**, Il **Baccio**, la **Pietra Bandini**, il ragazzo accovacciato.

Era la sua ossessione capire cosa c'era **dentro il blocchi**, tirar fuori le forme, i nasi, i capelli, le labbra, il sesso e talvolta, lasciare qualcosa di abbozzato, forse per fretta, più probabilmente perché è la vista così, mai finita.





# DAVID

(1501-04) Marble (4m-13' 5"), Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence



<https://www.accademia.org/explore-museum/artworks/michelangelos-david/>

- Largest sculpture of a naked man since classical antiquity
- The huge piece of marble had already been started by a student of Donatello
- David as the youthful hero which was a symbol for the young Florentine republic
- heroic David -huge in size, super human in its muscular perfection
- relaxed stance, self confident, with a worried face and furrowed brow
- Michelangelo believed that human beauty is the outward indication of divine spirit (interesting considering he was supposedly an unattractive man)





## MICHELANGELO'S DAVID BY NUMBERS



Eye & Hair Color  
**GREY**

Age

**670**



Average  
2-story house



Average  
giraffe



The David



The Thinker



The Little  
Mermaid

**5.16M**  
(16.93 feet)



David weighs **5,660kg**  
(12,478.12 pounds)



≈



**x 80**

The weight of  
**80 adult males**

**96** Years  
conception to completion

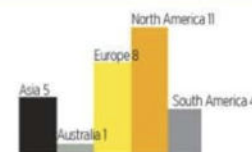
**38,000**  
Mentions of the David  
on Google books

**687**  
Kitsch objects of  
the David online

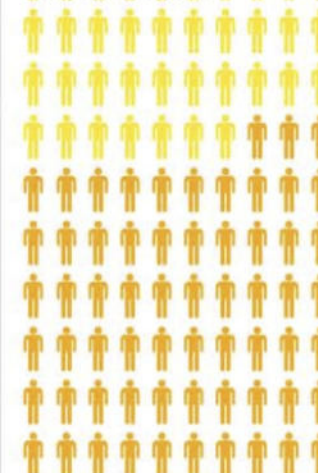


Approx.  
**30**  
Life-size replicas  
of the David  
around the world

Location of the most important copies



37% visitors buy a  
David-related souvenir



Annual visitors to the David:  
Approx. **1,252,508\***



Population of  
Florence:  
Approx. **370,092**

\*Source: Mibact statistics office, 2013

**Want to know more?**

This and more about the David in the new book by



*From Marble to Flesh.  
The Biography of Michelangelo's David*

<http://theflr.net/davidbook>



Cameo Appearances  
of the David on TV



THE  
FLORENTINE

Designed by Maria (Geronzi) Cai





Taking pics  
amongst  
shouting of "no  
picture, no  
picture"

My photo 2018





Poetry I wrote when I saw the David for the first time, a long time ago! (I must go back!)

## The David

“A man of strength, will, power to conquer the dimension of inner struggle -  
to win or lose.

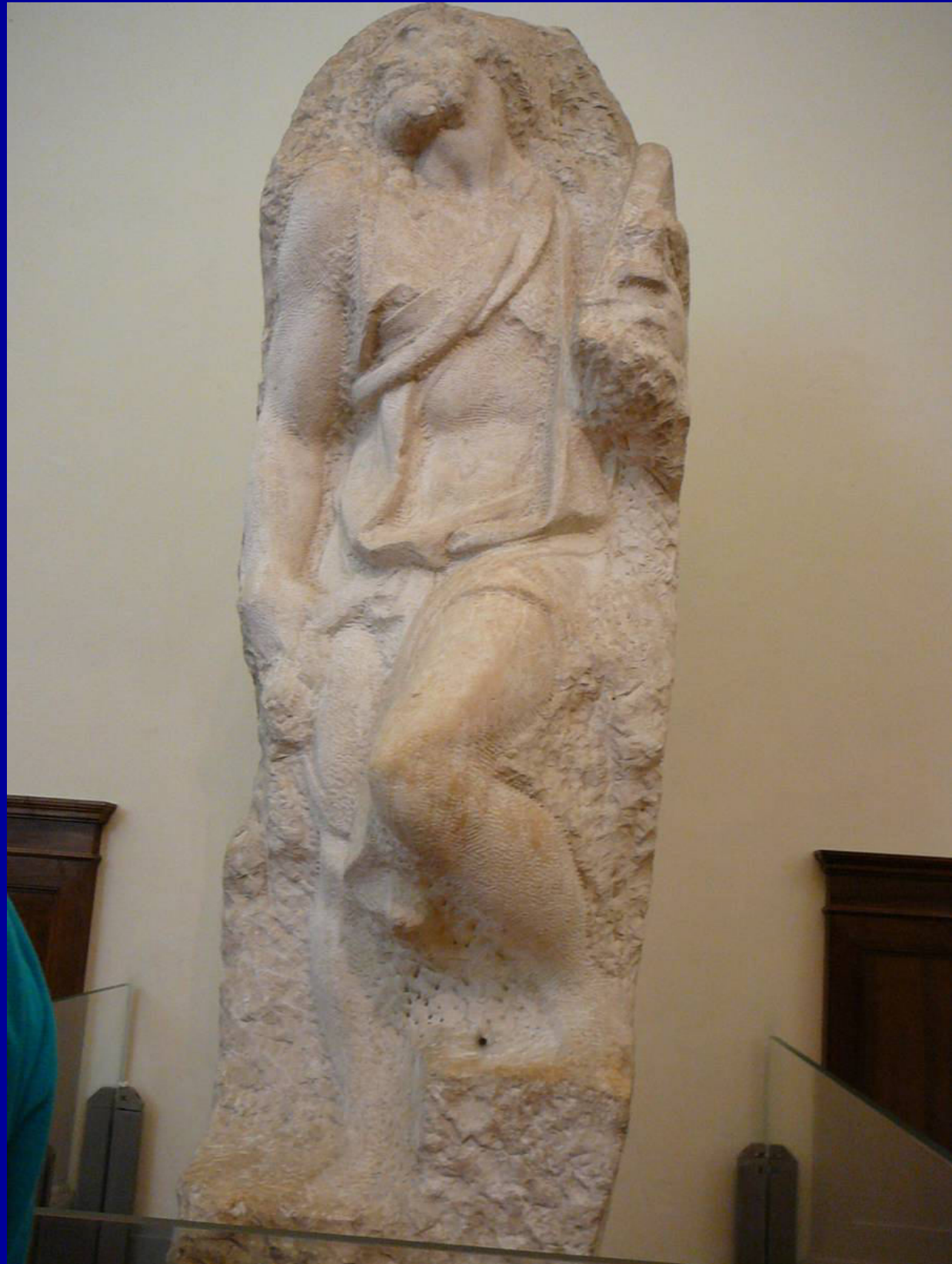
The stance of solitude, contemplation, yet tenseness - struggle between forces.  
From every angle he is perfect, from every side he is a man of will, a man of justice, a  
man of truth.

He can conquer all.

His hand, gesturing tenseness yet full of life in the profound sense.  
His face, contemplation, yet with the knowledge he will win in his quest in life.”



SLAVES, last works of  
Michelangelo







Almost  
abstract!



My photos, trip 2018



# MOSES 1513-16

For the monument of Pope Julius II's tomb, never completed



<https://www.rome.info/michelangelo/moses/>



# SISTINE CHAPEL-FRESCO (1536-1541)





The conservation-restoration of the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel was one of the most significant conservation-restorations of the 20th century.



Before Restoration - 1980's



After Restoration - 1994

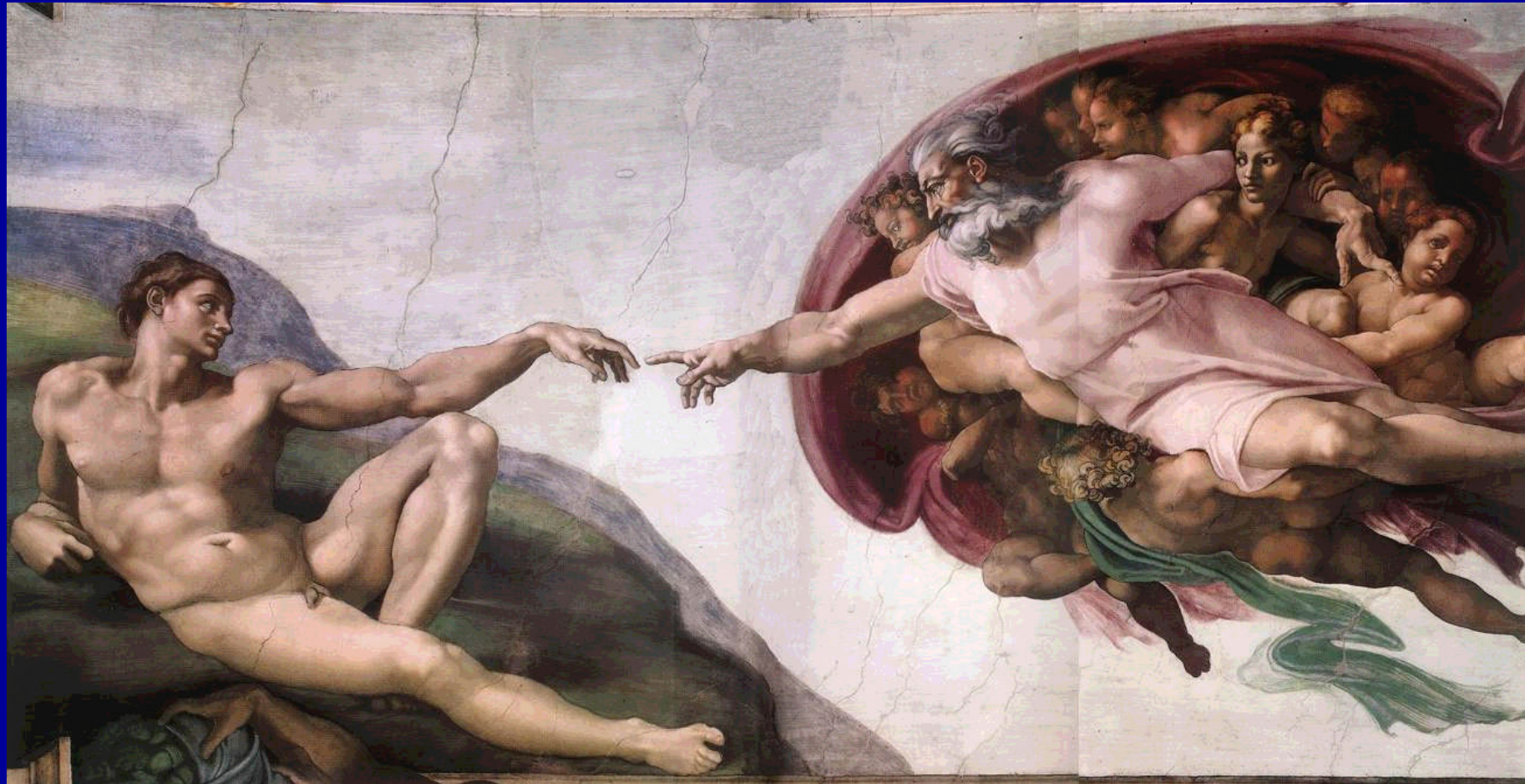




This most recent restoration had a profound effect on art lovers and historians, as colours and details that had not been seen for centuries were revealed. It has been claimed that as a result "Every book on Michelangelo will have to be rewritten".

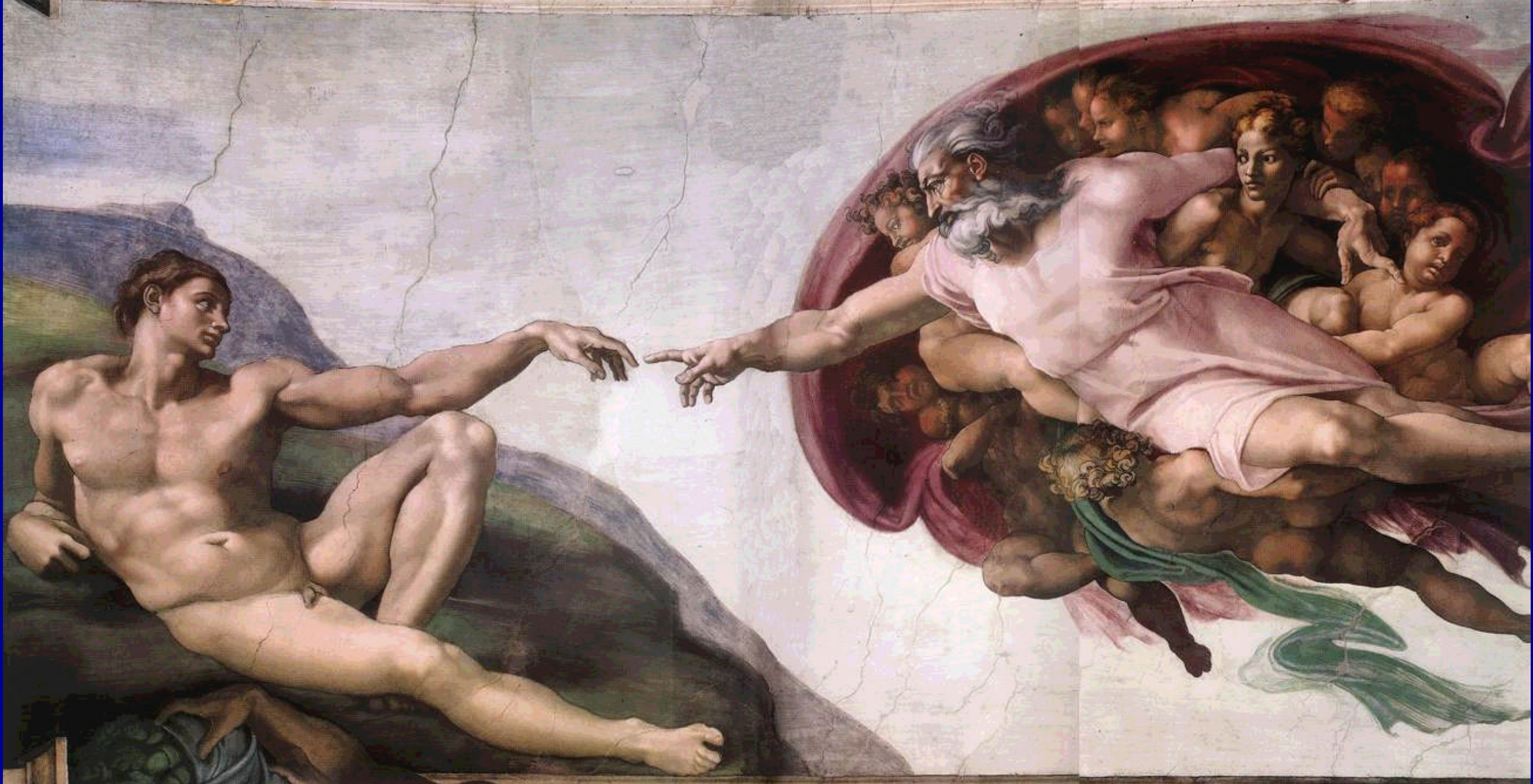


# The Creation of Adam, 1508-1512



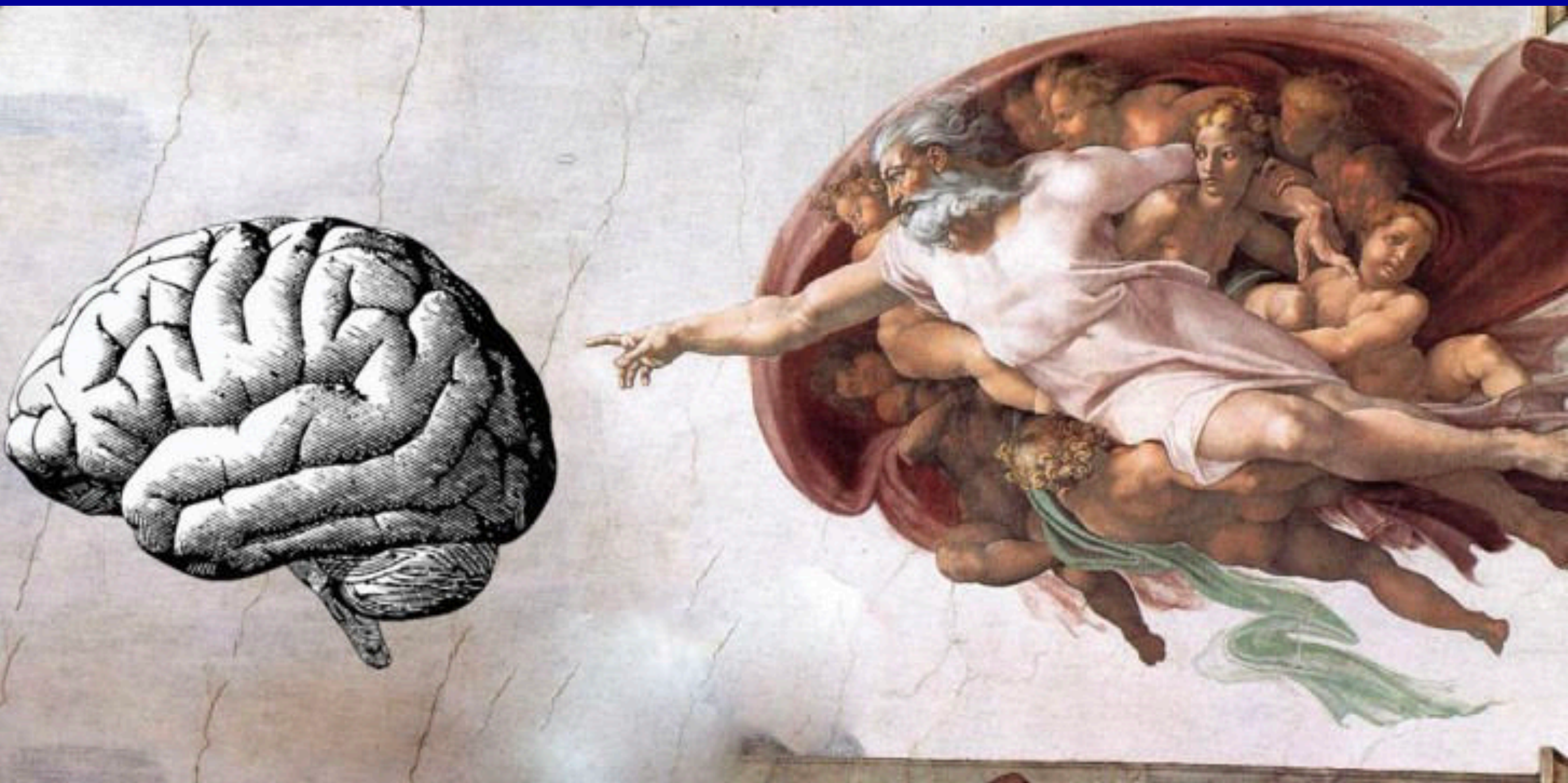
- It took him 4 years and 5 months
- commissioned by Pope Julius III
- the ceiling has a painted architectural framework to divide the ceiling into separate panels
- the main scenes are from Genesis
- There are also 20 male nude figures and the side zones are prophets and Sibyls seated on thrones ( the sibyls were prophetesses from antiquity who were believed to tell of the coming of Christ)
- 400 figures on the ceiling
- once restored showed brilliant colours



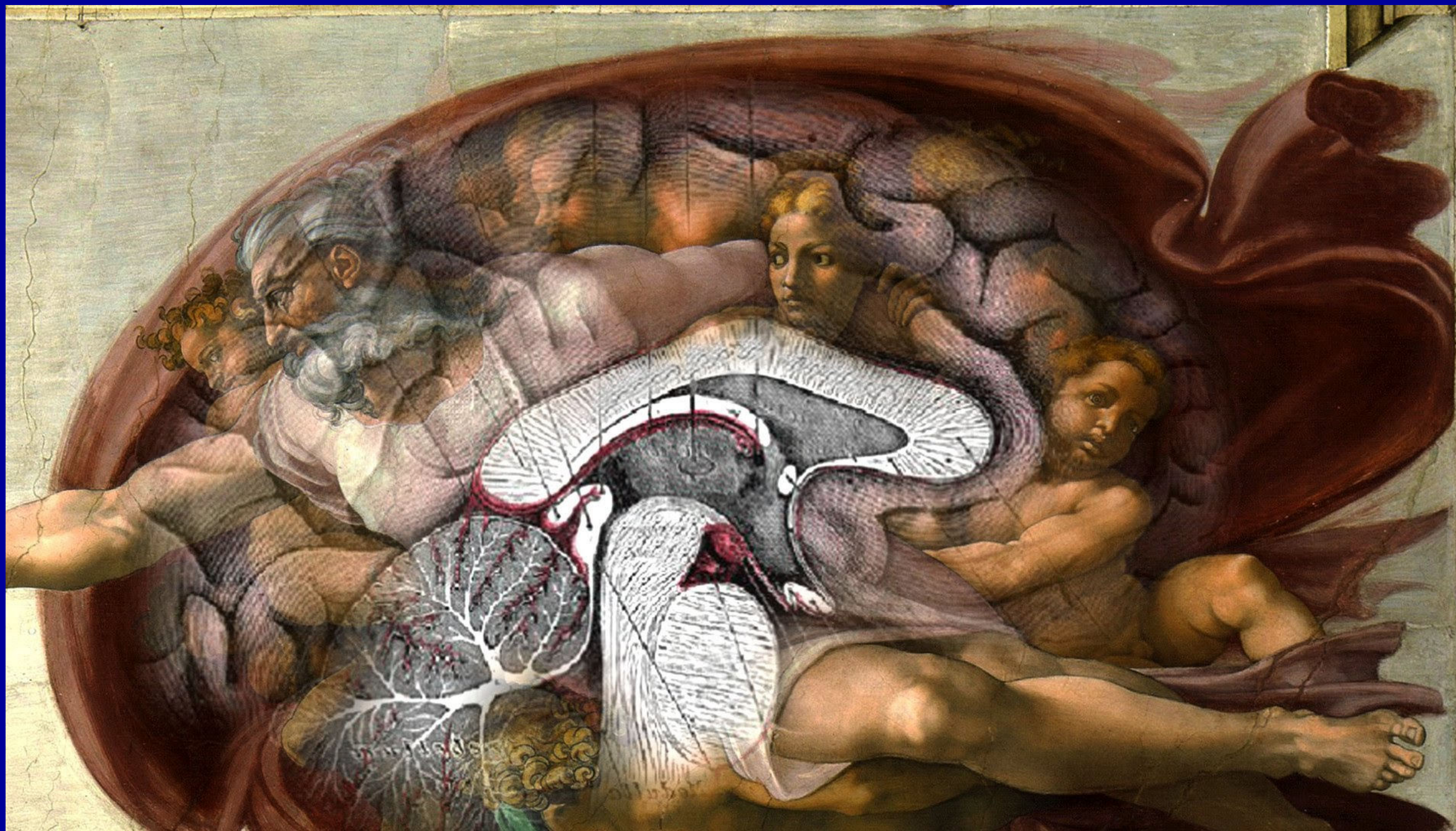


- Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel contains some of the most marvelous images of the creation of the world and of Adam and Eve. We do all know of the Creation of Adam.
- However, one recent and controversial theory is that **because God is in a form that resembles a brain**, perhaps God is giving Adam not life but intelligence.

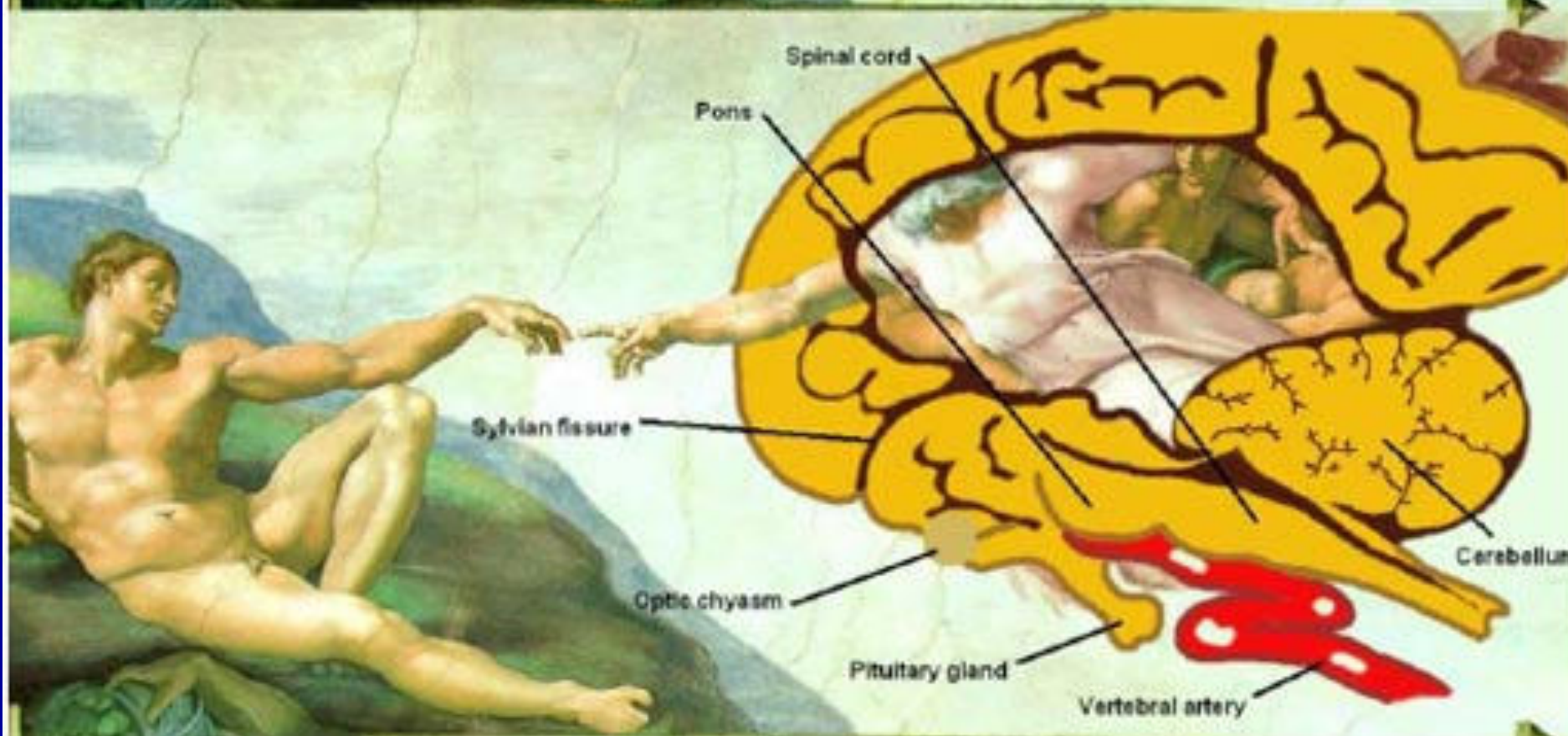














# THE CREATION OF ADAM

- This idea apparently originated with gynecologist Frank Meshberger. In 1990, Meshberger proposed that Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco, The Creation of Adam, represents a midsagittal view of the human brain. He argued that the prominent violet oval of God's billowing cloak outlines the cerebrum, the bump in the front is the Sylvian fissure, and the dangling angels' legs depict the pituitary and spinal cord. The foot of the frontmost angel is strangely shaped – Meshberger calls it "bifid" – which is consistent with a bilobed pituitary.



The thesis is attractive because it fits the message of the painting: **God is giving the divine spark of life to Adam.** Couldn't that spark be wisdom, or intelligence?

Meshberger thought so: "the larger image encompassing God is compatible with a brain. Michelangelo portrays that what God is giving to Adam is the intellect." We know Michelangelo was fascinated by human anatomy; like Leonardo da Vinci, he dissected cadavers, and could plausibly have made and studied a midsagittal brain section.





Once again "no  
pictures, no  
pictures"

## TEMPTATION AND EXPULSION

- Note how muscular Eve is. Michelangelo (and most other artists) were not allowed to paint from nude females; so they use male models and then added breasts. This explains her hardened, muscular body.
- Notice Adam reaches sinfully as much as Eve does.



More bodies, more nudes.





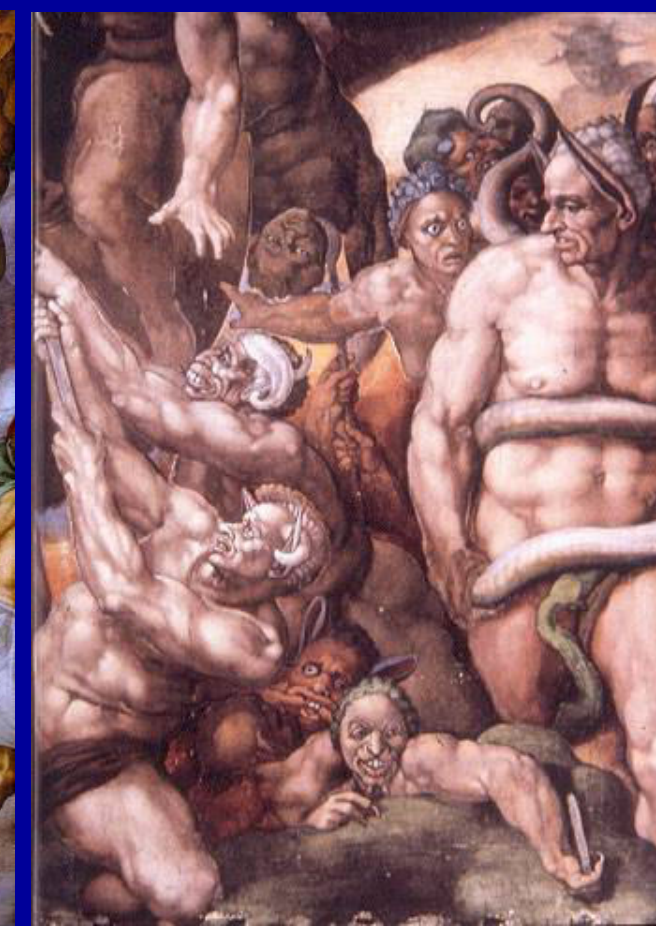


## The Last Judgment, 1536-1541

**“He will come to judge the living and the dead” (from the Apostle’s Creed, an early statement of Christian belief)**

Pope Paul III was well aware of this when he charged Michelangelo with repainting the chapel’s altar wall with the Last Judgment. With its focus on the resurrection of the body, this was the perfect subject for Michelangelo.





Over 300 muscular figures, in an infinite variety of dynamic poses, fill the wall to its edges. Unlike the scenes on the walls and the ceiling, the *Last Judgment* is not bound by a painted border. It is all encompassing and expands beyond the viewer's field of vision. Unlike other sacred narratives, which portray events of the past, this one implicates the viewer. It has yet to happen and when it does, the viewer will be among those whose fate is determined.



## MUSEO PIETÀ RONDANINI - MICHELANGELO

LA PIETÀ RONDANINI, 1552-1553  
but worked on it until his death in  
1564

Last work of Michelangelo remains  
unfinished

This work was bought by the  
Comune di Milano for 135  
milioni di lire nel 1952 and  
since 2015 is exhibited at the  
"Ospedale Spagnolo" in the  
courtyard of the Castello  
Sforzesco, Milan.







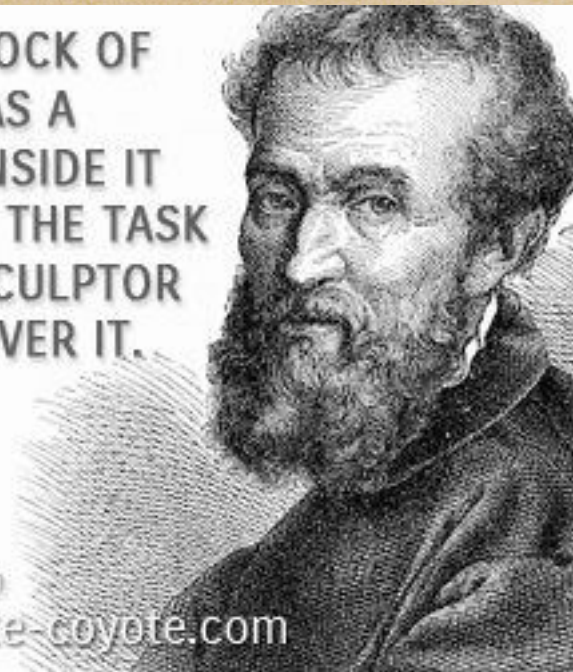
Extracted from the museum site.

Il tema del **compianto sul Cristo morto** ritorna più volte nell'attività artistica di **Michelangelo**. Il grande scultore toscano realizzò la sua prima Pietà nel 1498-1499 su commissione del cardinale Jean de Bilhères de Lagraulas, abate di Saint-Denis. Unica opera firmata da Michelangelo, il gruppo, conservato in **San Pietro in Vaticano** mostra una Vergine molto giovane in atto di tenere sulle ginocchia, sostenendolo, il corpo appena morto del figlio.

Nasce invece per ornare la tomba dello scultore la deposizione nota come **Pietà Bandini**, conservata al Museo dell'Opera del Duomo di Firenze. Nel 1553 l'artista, insoddisfatto del gruppo ancora solo abbozzato, in cui erano Nicodemo, Maria e Maddalena intorno a Cristo deposto dalla Croce, lo distrugge. I frammenti vengono regalati al banchiere Francesco Bandini, che incarica lo scultore Tiberio Calcagni di ricomporli. La Maddalena è interamente opera del Calcagni, mentre in Nicodemo si riconosce un autoritratto di Michelangelo.

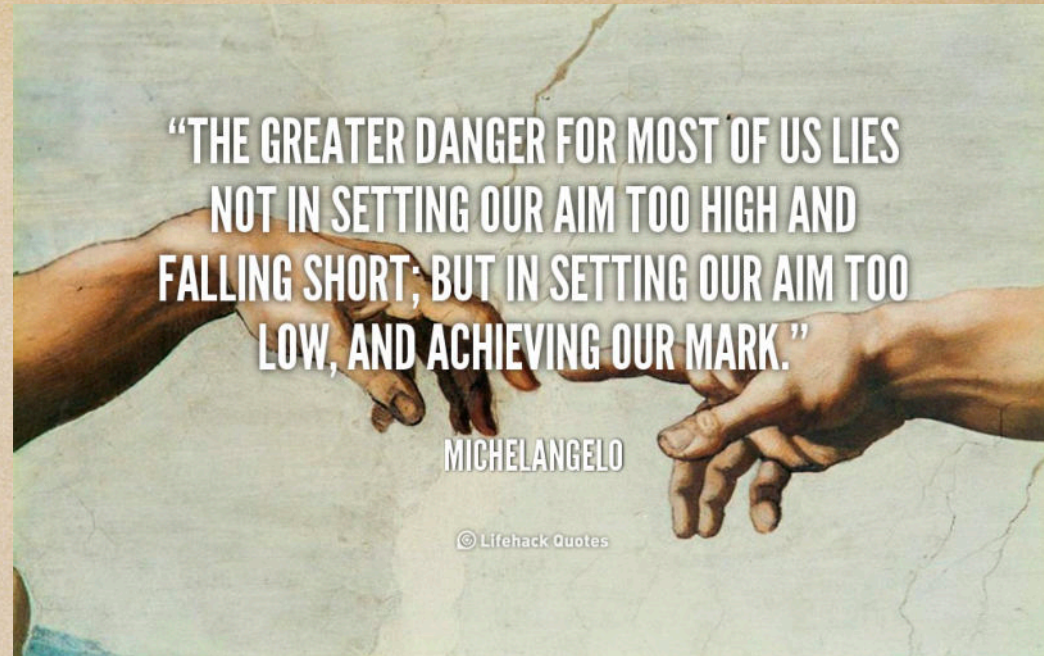


EVERY BLOCK OF  
STONE HAS A  
STATUE INSIDE IT  
AND IT IS THE TASK  
OF THE SCULPTOR  
TO DISCOVER IT.



Michelangelo  
www.quote-coyote.com

"THE GREATER DANGER FOR MOST OF US LIES  
NOT IN SETTING OUR AIM TOO HIGH AND  
FALLING SHORT; BUT IN SETTING OUR AIM TOO  
LOW, AND ACHIEVING OUR MARK."



MICHELANGELO

© Lifehack Quotes



***"The true  
work of art  
is but a  
shadow of  
the divine  
perfection."***

***Michelangelo***

I hope you  
enjoyed  
Michelangelo!

Updated  
Jennifer Karch  
January 23, 2022