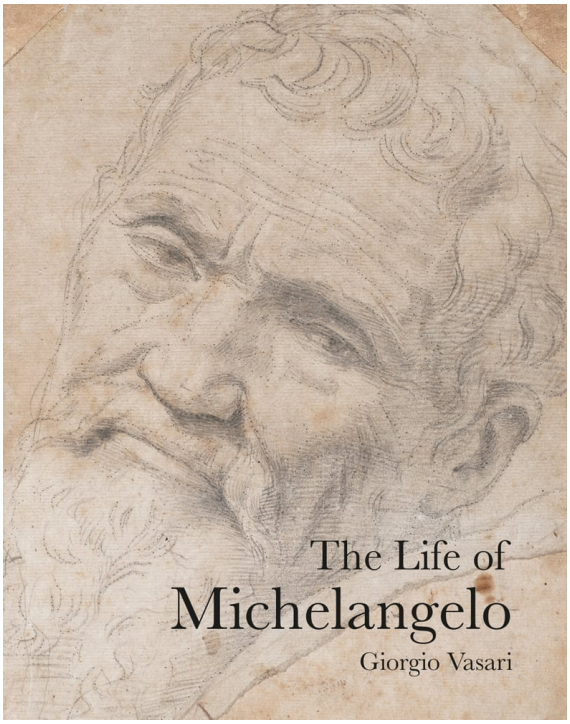
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# The Life of Michelangelo

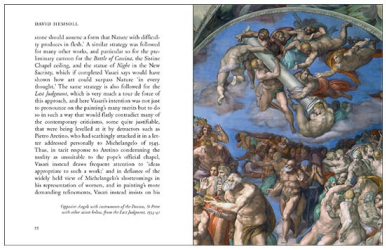
## Giorgio Vasari

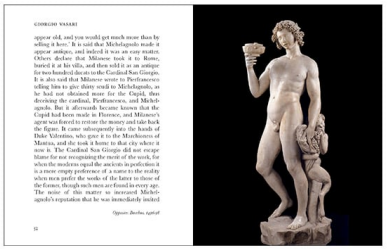
## Edited by David Hemsoll

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- One of the greatest biographies of an artist ever written, and a key document of the Renaissance. Written by a friend, fellow painter and fellow Florentine

Michelangelo Buonarrotti (1475-1564) is perhaps the greatest artist in the entire Western tradition. In painting, sculpture and architecture he created works that went beyond anything imagined before. The *David* – miraculously created, as Vasari describes, out of a piece of marble botched by another sculptor – the Sistine Ceiling, the Sistine *Last Judgement*, before which the Pope knelt in terrified prayer when it was first unveiled: these works have lost none of their awe-inspiring power. Michelangelo's impact was immediate, and he achieved a level of fame and influence that was unprecedented. It is not surprising, therefore, that the painter Giorgio Vasari should have made him the culmination of his *Lives of the Painters, Sculptors and Architects*, the first true work of art history. Vasari was a close colleague as well as a fellow artist and fellow Florentine. The biography printed here, from Vasari's much improved second edition, draws a picture of Michelangelo the man and the artist that has an immediacy and an authority that have not been surpassed. The introduction by David Hemsoll situates this great work in the context of 16th century Italian art.







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