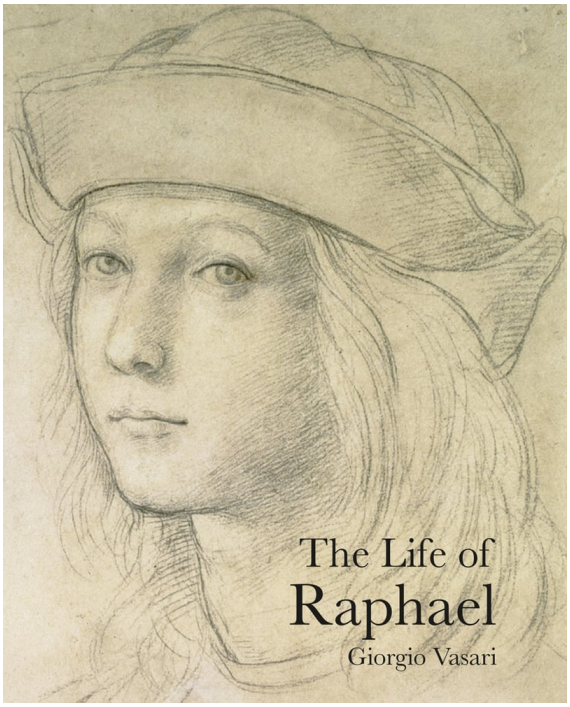
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The Life of Raphael

Giorgio Vasari

Edited by Jill Burke

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- A key text not only for the appreciation of Raphael's own art but also for its unprecedented attention to theoretical issues

Raphael (1483-1520) was for centuries considered the greatest artist who ever lived. Much of what we know about him comes from this biography, written by the Florentine painter Giorgio Vasari and first published in 1550. Vasari's *Lives of the Painters* was the first attempt to write a systematic history of Italian art. ***The Life of Raphael*** is a key text not only for the appreciation of Raphael's own art – whose development and chronology Vasari describes in detail, together with the spectacular social career of the first painter to be mooted, it was claimed, as a Cardinal – but also for its unprecedented attention to theoretical issues.

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