



## Rome Public Lecture

# Before Michelangelo: 'Revisioning' Sixtus's Sistine Chapel as Sensorium

Although the Sistine Chapel is one of the world's most recognizable cultural heritage sites, the visual rhetoric of the chapel space and its frescoes before the monumental intervention of Michelangelo remains elusive. This lecture will suggest a dynamic connection between visual, aural/verbal, and spatial configurations in the creation and perceiving of the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. By attending to the movement of the eye and body in the Chapel space, and by excavating a link between the frescoes and the sermons preached there, the way in which the 'eye can excite the soul' (Cortesi, 1510) opens up rich possibilities of historical interpretation.

*The lecture is the outward-facing event of a workshop, and so will conclude with round-table comments from an expert panel: Shannon Kuziow (co-convenor), Kristin B. Aavitsland, David Brown, Abigail Brundin, Jennifer DeSilva, Jaś Elsner, Catherine Fletcher, Florian Métral, Jonathan Nelson, Arnold Nesselrath, Michael O'Connor, Thomas Schmidt, Justine Walden, Kim Butler Winfield.*

### DATE & TIME

Monday 21 October 2024, 5.00 pm followed by refreshments

### VENUE

Australian Catholic University  
Villa Maria Rome Campus,  
Largo Giovanni Berchet, 4, 00152 Rome

### REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

To register for this event, please complete the registration form [here](#)



### PRESENTER

**Peter Howard**  
Professor and Former Director,  
Institute for Religion and  
Critical Inquiry at Australian  
Catholic University, and  
Honorary Professor,  
University of St Andrews.

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