

# The Sistine Chapel Ceiling as Text. (1993).

**By Rob Myers.**

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This unfinished preparatory work is one of two sketches for "The Sistine Chapel Ceiling as Text". The other, executed in 2000, is available in "Sketches for The Sistine Chapel Ceiling as Text" (2001), which also includes a textual Warhol 100 Marilyns, a textual Hirst spot painting, and a textual Fiona Rae abstract.

**Start.**

You are looking at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, you can start at Zecheriah(AA), Jonah(LA), or God Creating Adam(HA).

**AA**

Zecheriah.

You can look down(BA), left(MA), or right(SA).

**BA**

The Drunkenness of Noah.

You can look up(AA), down(CA), left(AB), or right(FB).

**CA**

The Deluge.

You can look up(BA), down(DA), left(NA), or right(TA).

**DA**

Noah's Sacrifice.

You can look up(CA), down(FA), left(BB), or right(GB).

**FA**

Temptation and Expulsion.

You can look up(DA), down(GA), left(OA), or right(VA).

**GA**

The Creation of Eve.

You can look up(FA), down(HA), left(CB), or right(HB).

**HA**

The Creation of Adam.

Adam(HAC) reclines on the ground(HAB), turning to touch God's hand. God(HAE) is accompanied by a troop of angels(HAI) surrounded by a red cloak(HAF).

Eve(HAH) watches from His arm.

You can look up(GA), down(IA), left(PA), or right(VA).

**IA**

The Gathering of the Waters.

You can look up(HA), down(JA), left(QA), or right(XA).

**JA**

The Creation of the Sun and Moon.

You can look up(IA), down(KA), left(QA), or right(XA).

**KA**

God Seperating Light from Darkness.

You can look up(JA), down(LA), left(QA), or right(XA).

**LA**

Jonah.

You can look up(KA), left(RA), or right(YA).

**MA**

David and Goliath.

You can look down(AE) or right(AA). Incomplete?

**NA**

Zorobael.

You can look up(AE), down(CE), or right(CA).

**OA**

Ozias.

You can look up(CE), down(DE), or right(FA).

**PA**

Roboam.

You can look up(DE), down(FE), or right(HA).

**QA**

Salmon.

You can look up(FE), down(GE), or right(JA).

**RA**

The Hanging of Haman.

You can look up(GE), or right(LA).

**SA**

Judith and Holofernes.

You can look left(AA) or down(IE).

**TA**

Josiah.

You can look up(IE), left(CA), or down(JE).

**UA**

Ezekias.

You can look up(JE), left(FA), or down(KE).

**VA**

Asa.

You can look up(KE), left(HA), or down(LE).

**XA**

Jesse.

You can look up(LE), left(JA), or down(NE).

**YA**

The Brazen Serpent.

You can look up(NE) or left(LA).

**AB**

The Death of Absalom.

You can look up(AA), down(CA), left(AE), or right(BA). Either side are the Ignudi(AC).

**BB**

The Destruction of Baal's image.

You can look up(CA), down(FA), left(CE), or right(DA). Either side are the Ignudi(CC).

**CB**

The Massacre of the Tribe of Ahab.

You can look up(FA), down(HA), left(DE), or right(GA). Either side are the Ignudi(EC).

**DB**

Illegible.

You can look up(HA), down(JA), left(FE), or right(IA). Either side are the Ignudi(GC).

**EB**

Elias on the Chariot of Fire.

You can look up(JA), down(LA), left(GE), or right(KA). Either side are the Ignudi(IC).

**FB**

Joab Kills Abner.

You can look up(AA), down(CA), left(BA), or right(IE). Either side are the Ignudi(KC).

**GB**

The Death of Urias.

You can look up(CA), down(FA), left(DA), or right(JE). Either side are the Ignudi(MC).

**HB**

Nathan and David.

You can look up(FA), down(HA), left(GA), or right(KE). Either side are the Ignudi(OC).

**IB**

I don't know.

You can look up(HA), down(JA), left(IA), or right(LE). Either side are the Ignudi(QC).

**JB**

Illegible.

You can look up(JA), down(LA), left(KA), or right(NE). Either side are the Ignudi(SC).

**AE**

Joel.

You can look up(MA), right(AB) or down(NA).

**CE**

Erythraea.

You can look up(NA), right(BB) or down(OA).

**DE**

Ezekiel.

You can look up(OA), right(CB) or down(PA).

**FE**

Persica.

You can look up(PA), right(DB) or down(QA).

**GE**

Jeremiah.

You can look up(QA), right(EB) or down(RA).

**IE**

Delphica.

You can look up(SA), left(FB) or down(TA).

**JE**

Isaiah.

You can look up(TA), left(GB) or down(UA).

**KE**

Cumaea.

You can look up(UA), left(HB) or down(VA).

**LE**

Daniel.

You can look up(VA), left(IB) or down(XA).

**NE**

Libyca.

You can look up(XA), left(JB) or down(YA).

**AC**

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for The Death of Joram, Son of Ahab(AB).

CC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for The Destruction of Baal's Image(BB).

EC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for The Massacre of the Tribe of Ahab(CB).

GC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for an illegible image(DB).

IC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for Elias on the Chariot of Fire(EB).

KC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for Joab Killing Abner(FB).

MC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for The Death of Abner(GB).

OC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for Nathan and David(HB).

QC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for The Death of Absalom(IB).

SC

Ignudi.

These are the shield-bearers for an illegible image(JB).

HAA

The sky.

The sky is a shade of blue faded to gunmetal, stained and cracked. God's cloak (HAF), God's arm(HAE), and Adam's(HAC), stand out against it.

HAB

The ground.

The ground cuts diagonally down across the sky (HAA) in the bottom left of the composition in blues and greens with deep shadows. On it lies Adam(HAC).

HAC

Adam.

Adam, young and voluptuously muscular with boyish features and short brown hair, reclines on the ground(HAB), leaning back on his right arm with his right leg outstretched and left leg drawn back. His genitalia are tiny and his face unsure. He turns his body towards you and his face towards God(HAE), whose hand he reaches out across the sky(HAA) to touch making an asymmetry with Him. Adam's flesh is the colours of bronze, yet in light fleshy hues. His left foot is under his right leg just above the knee. The wrist of the neighbouring Ignudi (GC) almost brushes against his thigh as its arm cuts into the picture.

HAE

God.

God reaches out across the sky(HAA) to touch Adam's left hand(HAC) with the finger of His right hand. His left arm is around Eve's(HAH) shoulders. The finger of his left hand rests on the cherubic figure over his legs(HAJ). He turns his body towards us, right knee brought forward so his right leg crosses over his left shin. His robe is a mauve nightshirt, his hair grey and curly. His beard obscures his bronzed and aged face, although his skin elsewhere seems lighter than Adam's. God is surrounded by a troop of angels(HAI) with a red cloak(HAF) billowing around them as they sweep across the sky with Him. One figure beneath God(HAK) also stretches diagonally across in flight as if supporting Him.

HAF

The cloak.

The crimson cloak billows around the troop of angels(HAI) and God(HAE) as they sweep across the sky(HAA).

HAH

Eve.

Eve is a blonde renaissance woman, turning her head to watch intently from God's left arm (HAE) with her left hand. In the shadows amongst the troop of angels(HAI) her skin looks almost swarthy.

HAI

The troop of angels.

The blonde, shadowy figures of the troop look out from behind God(HAE) in their cloak(HAF), surrounding his torso and seemingly supporting him. One of their number seems to be holding Him up from beneath him(HAK). Another more cherubic figure(HAJ) holds onto Eve's leg(HAH) as he is swept along with the group.

HAJ

The cherubic figure.

Muscular arms around Eve's leg(HAH), legs drawn up and turned towards us, chubby face inclined to the right yet wide eyes on us, this copper-haired figure's

position above God's bare legs(HAE) seems very precarious.

HAK

One of the troop.

This boyish figure, curly blond hair and strong back turned to us, holds God(HAE), almost lying back on the air. Past his hair and over his left shoulder a pale viridian drapery flutters down into the air(HAA).