

Raphael. **Madonna of the Meadow.** 1505.

In the painting, Raphael used the colors in two different ways. For the background, the color gives the illusion of depth. The conversion from greens to limpid blues produces the feeling of a landscape retreating into a distant haze. Although the landscape is identifiable, the painting functions as an idealized backdrop. The colors used are quite bright especially Madonna's dress. The Madonna is an extensive presence. Her form is completed with more light and shade than with color.

The color of Madonna's dress presents a different purpose, it is symbolic. The red specify her humanity, her blue mantle indicates her spirituality. These colors were dictated by the Church and were to remain that way.

Madonna's body protects the holy babies from the outer world, serving as a safety barrier. In the background, containing a depiction of a city, adds tension, reminding me of possible dangers.

The cross that baby Jesus and St. John was holding foreshadows about what happens to him later.

