

Relief by Design

Prof. Carolina Mangone
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

March 1, 1:15 pm

CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES
Melville E-4340

Michelangelo's Pitti tondo and Taddei tondo, carved in Florence around 1504, flout conventions of finish and polish in Renaissance marble sculpting. This paper considers the reliefs as discrete artifacts in the long and heterogeneous history of Michelangelo's unfinished (*non finito*) sculpture and argues that they mark the repercussions of Michelangelo's encounter with Leonardo—particularly his transformative use preparatory drawings. The latter included the first public exhibition of a cartoon, an event that challenged the expectation that ends are the proper object of aesthetic attention. It is in dialogue with such graphic media that the ingenuity of Michelangelo's tondi and their lack of finish, comes fully into view as a purposeful endeavor.



CAROLINA MANGONE is Assistant Professor at Princeton University and author of *Bernini's Michelangelo* (Yale, 2020) and co-editor of *Material Bernini* (Routledge, 2016). Her work has been supported by fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Her current book project on the early modern creation and reception of Michelangelo's unfinished sculpture, titled *Michelangelo and the Art of Imperfection*, will appear with Yale University Press.