

May English Language Meeting and Pasta Dinner

“Michelangelo’s Pieta in St Peters” presented by Rob Prufer, Art Historian

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 6:30 pm, Garden House, 2336 15th Avenue South

Upon completing his Pieta, now in St. Peter’s, Michelangelo wrote to his father that he had made the “impossible possible.” Indeed, the contract had assured the patron that Michelangelo would produce the most beautiful work in Rome. And all agreed that he had. But when he got the job he was only twenty-two with very little on his resume. He was penniless and sleeping on friends’ couches, unable to put up his brother visiting from Florence. How did Michelangelo get this choice commission, which he completed astonishingly in under one year? And how did he intend for us to experience the work? He didn’t create it for St. Peter’s, either the original, 4th-century church or the current basilica. And he certainly didn’t want us to look up at it, as we do now. And what are the circumstances that led to its placement behind bullet-proof glass? Join us to explore Michelangelo’s Pieta.

Rob Prufer is a long-time Dante member. He is an avid student of the Italian language and Italian art history. He shares his passion for art history with his students at Newport High School and the wider public in his lecture series at the Bellevue Arts Museum, The Loggia Lectures.