**La Muta**

The under-painting,

The over-painting,

The body

The adorned

The x-ray

The restoration.

Every Painting, and goes through various stages during it’s invention, modifications, re-visits, it’s ultimate realisation, it’s debut reception, its life span, it’s journey, forever gaining a history….and ultimately, a few knocks and scratches along the way.

Raphael’s La Muta is a living entity.

It has a prehistory, a present state and a future, and looking out at all of us for over 500 years us as we have risen, peaked, aged and moved on.

The artists and designers from the RCA have for a short period travelled along with La Muta, and become it’s close friend for at least part of it’s journey and theirs.

An x-ray of La Muta reveals an under-drawing, a history and hidden layers of development intrinsic to the life of this painting, as it became it’s own self.

As each of the exhibitors in this show also have their own idiosyncratic histories and have survived knocks and scratches to become the people and the artists and designers they all are, and all will become.

As the painting has been being restored, these artists and designers have been artistically x-raying and excavating through the layers of this painting’s physical and cultural history, as they too project forward, the possibilities and ambitions of their own art and design practices.

This project has enabled all these histories and a broad range of futures to be in the present time….

Thank you La Muta.

Professor David Rayson

19th March 2015