

"School of Athens" - Diogenes the Cynic(?) and the Gesturers

Post by "Don" of May 23, 2021 at 8:19 PM

Whether we identify one of those figures with Epicurus or not they are definitely composed as a pair. Raphael did preparatory sketches with those two. Plus they are definitely reacting to the figure on the steps with whom I find the most convincing argument to be Diogenes the Cynic with his cup, the last material possession of his. The figure to the left of Plato looks too much like Socrates to not be him (plus Socrates was "sanctioned" by the Church via Plato and Aristotle, if I remember correctly).

The questions remain, however, as to HOW the two figures on the steps are reacting to Diogenes. Favorably? Scornfully?

I think these figures are due some investigation (especially since 19th c. academics were equating each of them with Epicurus).