

The Damned Soul

The folio, which belongs to the series of what Vasari called «divine heads,» was intended as a homage to his close friend Gherardo Perini. The drawing has been interpreted by some as an allegorical image of the damned soul. It is certainly influenced by a number of enraged and screaming figures by Leonardo da Vinci. Some scholars hold that the folio in Casa Buonarroti is only a copy of Michelangelo's famous picture, the original having been lost. This composition was held in particular esteem in the past, and was consequently reproduced in engravings and frequently studied by artists, including Cellini.