Michelangelo was an apprentice to a painter before studying in the sculpture gardens of the powerful Medici family. What followed was a remarkable career as an artist, famed in his own time for the way he had been trained by his father. And not just any rebel.

Michelangelo's life is detailed in the original English translation of Giorgio Vasari's "Lives of the Artists," published in 1550. However, Vasari's biography is not without its biases, as he was a fellow Florentine artist and rival of Michelangelo.

Early life
Michelangelo Buonarroti was born on March 6, 1475, in Caprese, a town near Arezzo, in Tuscany. His family were bankers in Florence, but his father decided to enter a government post when the bank industry failed. Michelangelo's mother died when he was six, and he was raised by his father and grandfather.

Fame and influence
Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564) remains arguably the most powerful artist in the Western canon, and a touchstone for all artistic endeavour. His work includes the Sistine Chapel ceiling, the Pietà in St. Peter's Basilica, and his sculptures such as "David" and "Moses." His art is characterized by a profound sense of space and movement, and a willingness to experiment with new techniques and forms.

Famous works
- "David" (1496–1497): A gigantic statue of David, the biblical hero who slew Goliath with a sling. Located in the Piazza della Signoria, Florence.
- "Pietà" (1498–1499): A realistic portrayal of the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of Jesus Christ. Located in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.
- "Sistine Chapel Ceiling" (1508–1512): One of the most famous works of art in the world, featuring numerous frescoes and figures, including "The Creation of Adam".

The Life of Michelangelo (Lives of the Artists): Vasari (1972) H/C Folio Society Slipcased. A good condition hardback with slipcase. Case and fading to edges and spine. Book is in very good condition with some fading to spine, internals are clear and bright.

The Life of Michelangelo: Ascanio Condivi is a classic, written by an associate of Michelangelo at his request during the master's lifetime. As such, it is essential reading for Michelangelo scholars and even university-level students seeking a period, primary source on the subject.