

**PSYA- 210/710 Psychoanalytic Ekphrasis**  
**Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute**  
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***Course Overview***

Of Michelangelo's work, Freud writes "there is so much thought striving for expression", more than even an artist of such caliber was able to give form. Though one might dismiss Freud's writings on art as epiphenomenal to the development of psychoanalysis, the perhaps thwarted "striving for expression" that Freud discovers in artistic works presents a problem parallel to that of the neurotic symptom. The analysis of the work of art becomes a model for and a training in the practice of analytic listening. In each, what is at stake reaches beyond what is represented and to questions of formation: how it is that the work of the unconscious produces forms, weaves together various psychic trends, and gives matter for representation. In considering the writings of Freud and others on the intersection of psychoanalysis and art, we shall consider analytic listening as an aesthetic practice, no less in the clinic than in a museum.

***Reading Assignments***

All assigned texts will be made available via Basecamp. **Please read the initial assignment prior to the first course meeting.**

Week One – S. Freud "The Moses of Michelangelo"

Week Two – E. Kris, "A Psychotic Sculptor of the Eighteenth Century"

Week Three – A. Ehrenzweig *The Hidden Order of Art* (selections)

Week Four – F. Gantheret - Project for an "Encomium to Sensuality"