

The title of my research paper is The “Light of the Intellect”: Botticelli’s Drawings for Dante’s Divine Comedy. It required a semester’s worth of research and writing and was completed last December for my Renaissance Art class. My topic for this paper is a commission that Florentine artist Sandro Botticelli received c. 1480 to execute 102 illustrations for the text from his patron, Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco de’ Medici. There was to be one drawing per canto, plus two additional drawings, the *Chart of Hell*, and a two-page rendering of Lucifer. Out of the remaining drawings, I chose to closely discuss *Inferno* VIII because of its detail and complex composition, and *Paradiso* II because of its simple composition and ethereal nature. My research paper explores the differences in Botticelli’s approach to these two cantos by looking at composition and style and argues that Botticelli was above all trying to convey two completely different worlds and the spiritual journey that takes Dante from one to the other, in a way that humanists in 15th century Florence would have understood and appreciated.