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HUMPHRIES

Elisabetta Sirani

By Adelina Modesti



The first English-language book to present a full overview of the artist's work that is both authoritative and accessible to art enthusiasts. Includes newly discovered and attributed paintings by Sirani.

Elisabetta Sirani of Bologna (1638-1665) was one of the most innovative and prolific artists of the Bolognese School. Not only a painter, she was also a printmaker and a teacher. Based on extensive archival documentation and primary sources – including inventories, sale catalogues and her work diary – Elisabetta Sirani provides an overview of the life, work, critical fortune and legacy of this successful Baroque artist. Placing her within the context of the post-Tridentine society that both inhibited and supported her, Modesti examines Sirani's influence on many of the artists studying at Bologna's school for professional women artists, as well as her significance in the professionalisation of women's artistic practice in the seventeenth century.

Beautifully illustrated throughout, Elisabetta Sirani focuses on women's agency. More specifically, it explores Sirani's identity as both a woman and an artist, including her professional ambition, self-fashioning and literary construction as Bologna's pre-eminent cultural heroine.

AUTHOR

Dr Adelina Modesti is Honorary Senior Fellow in the School of Culture and Communication (Art History) at the University of Melbourne. Recent publications include *Women's Patronage and Gendered Cultural Networks in Early Modern Europe: Vittoria della Rovere, Grand Duchess of Tuscany* and *Elisabetta Sirani 'Virtuosa': Women's cultural production in early modern Bologna*.

SERIES

This book is part of the series *Illuminating Women Artists* and is published in association with Getty Publications. This series is the first to focus in a deliberate and sustained way on women artists throughout history, to recognize their accomplishments, to revive their name recognition, and to make their works better known to art enthusiasts of the 21st century. The first books published in the series are *Luisa Roldán* (2021) and *Artemisia Gentileschi* (2022). Forthcoming volumes will be dedicated to Barbara Longhi, Rosalba Carriera, Louise Moillon and Mary Beale, among others.

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