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Edited by Virginia Cox and Shannon McHugh

## Vittoria Colonna

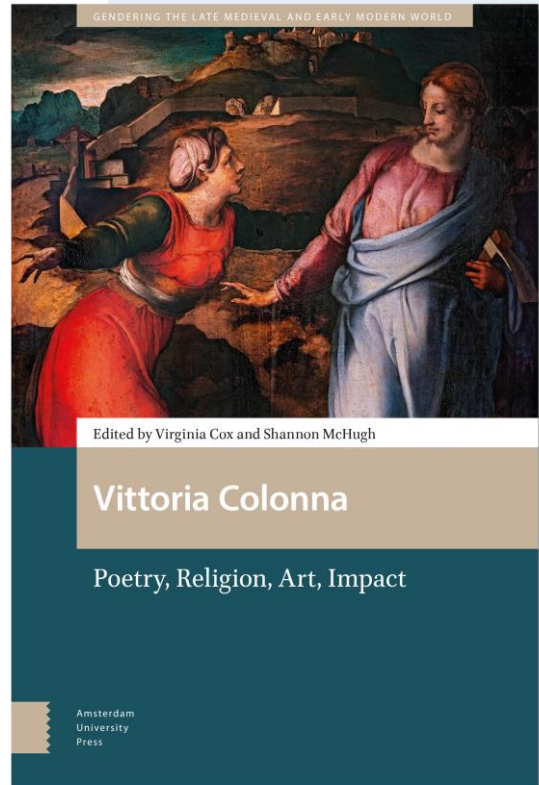
*Poetry, Religion, Art, Impact*

This edited collection presents fresh and original work on Vittoria Colonna, perhaps the outstanding female figure of the Italian Renaissance, a leading Petrarchist poet, and an important figure in the Italian Reform movement. Until recently best known for her close spiritual friendship with Michelangelo, she is increasingly recognized as a powerful and distinctive poetic voice, a cultural and religious icon, and an important literary model for both men and women. This volume comprises compelling new research by established and emerging scholars in the fields of literature, book history, religious history, and art history, including several studies of Colonna's influence during the Counter-Reformation, a period long neglected by Italian cultural historiography. The Colonna who emerges from this new reading is one who challenges traditional constructions of women's place in Italian literature: no mere imitator or follower, but an innovator and founder of schools in her own right.

### BIOGRAPHY

Virginia Cox is Senior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. Her books include *Women's Writing in Italy, 1400–1650* (2008), *The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy* (2011), *Lyric Poetry by Women of the Italian Renaissance* (2013) and *A Short History of the Italian Renaissance* (2015).

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### KEYWORDS

Vittoria Colonna, Italian Renaissance, women's writing, Reformation, Counter-Reformation.

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