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Angela Oberer

The Life and Work of Rosalba Carriera (1673-1757)

The Queen of Pastel

The Life and Work of Rosalba Carriera (1673-1757): The Queen of Pastel is the first extensive biographical narrative in English of Rosalba Carriera. It is also the first scholarly investigation of the external and internal factors that helped to create this female painter's unique career in eighteenth-century Europe. It documents the difficulties, complications, and consequences that arose then – and can also arise today – when a woman decides to become an independent artist. This book contributes a new, in-depth analysis of the interplay between society's expectations, generally accepted codices for gendered behaviour, and one single female painter's astute strategies for achieving success, as well as autonomy in her professional life as a famed artist. Some of the questions that the author raises are: How did Carriera manage to build up her career? How did she run her business and organize her own workshop? What kind of artist was Carriera? Finally, what do her self-portraits reveal in terms of self-enactment and possibly autobiographical turning points?

Biography

Angela Oberer teaches art history at Georgetown University, Florence, at AIFS, at CEA, at CET which is associated with Vanderbilt University, and at other programs that work with colleges and universities from all over the USA.



Visual and Material Culture, 1300-1700
July 2020

326 pages, 8 colour, 32 b/w illustrations
Hardback

170 x 240 mm

€119.00 / £108.00 / \$140.00

€118.99 / £107.99 / \$139.99

ISBN 978 94 6298 899 6

e-ISBN 978 90 4854 140 9

BISAC ART016030 / ART065000 / HIS054000

BIC ACN / AGB / AFC / JFSJ1

KEYWORDS

Rosalba Carriera; Angela Carriera Pellegrini;
Giovanna Carriera; female artist; pastel; Venice

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