Count Carlo Cesare Malvasia’s

*Felsina pittrice*

or

*Lives of the Bolognese Painters*
Count Carlo Cesare Malvasia’s
Felsina pittrice
or Lives of the Bolognese Painters

Count Carlo Cesare Malvasia’s *Felsina pittrice*, first published in two volumes in Bologna in 1678, is an invaluable source for the history and criticism of painting in early modern Italy, but the text remains difficult to understand and little understood. This new publication of the *Felsina pittrice* will appear in a series of monographic volumes involving a team of international scholars under the general editorship of Elizabeth Cropper, Dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington. An English translation is printed opposite the Italian text, for which Lorenzo Pericolo, coordinator of the series, provides a new critical edition, together with Malvasia’s relevant preparatory notes, here included for the first time in their entirety. Careful analysis of all these materials makes it possible to reevaluate Malvasia’s status as a historian, while providing much new information about the artists whose lives he recorded, including illustrations in color of all the works he mentions.

Pubblicata in due tomi a Bologna nel 1678, la *Felsina pittrice* di Carlo Cesare Malvasia è una delle più importanti fonti per la critica d’arte dell’Italia moderna. Malgrado la sua importanza, il testo di Malvasia continua a presentare difficoltà e rimane di difficile interpretazione. Questa nuova edizione della *Felsina pittrice* consiste in una serie di volumi monografici ed è condotta da una équipe internazionale di storici dell’arte sotto la direzione di Elizabeth Cropper, direttrice del Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (National Gallery of Art, Washington). La traduzione inglese affianca il testo italiano, la cui edizione critica è curata da Lorenzo Pericolo, coordinatore dell’intera serie. Il tutto è accompagnato dalla pubblicazione integrale delle note manoscritte di Malvasia in relazione con gli artisti trattati nei singoli volumi. In questa edizione critica, il testo di Malvasia è sottoposto a una rigorosa analisi che permette di rivalutare le sue teorie artistiche e il suo pensiero storico in una nuova luce, fornendo nel contempo una miniera di dati essenziali riguardo gli artisti ricordati dall’autore, il tutto corredato con illustrazioni a colori delle opere menzionate nel testo.
Now Available in this Series

Early Bolognese Painting

Edited by Elizabeth Cropper and Lorenzo Pericolo

xxvi + 536 p., 7 b/w ills, 150 col. ills, 220 × 280 mm, 2012
ISBN 978-1-905375-84-4
Felsina pittrice, vol. 1
Hardback: € 150 / $196.00

“Overall this inaugural volume surveying a vast and challenging body of material is a work of profound and intimate scholarship and an invaluable source of provenance and historiography. For devotees of Bolognese seicento painting the best is still to come: one can only hope that such a monumental undertaking receives the support it deserves from publisher and libraries alike to bring it to completion.”


Life of Marcantonio Raimondi and Critical Catalogue of Prints by or after Bolognese Masters

Edited by Elizabeth Cropper and Lorenzo Pericolo

2 vols, 844 p., 33 b/w ills, 877 col. ills, 220 × 280 mm, 2017
Felsina pittrice, vol. 2
Hardback: € 300 / $390.00

“(…) the volume is an excellent critical edition, based on accurate philological criteria, and should be considered a milestone for non-Italian speakers who wish to familiarize themselves with Felsina pittrice, a truly essential seventeenth-century text in the Italian and European scenario that provides a wealth of historiographical information and reflections useful for the development of multiple avenues of research.”

Marzia Faietti, in: Print Quarterly, XXXV, 2018, 4
Celebrated by Malvasia as the creator and promoter of the new maniera moderna, Guido Reni (1575–1642) introduces the fourth age of painting: a period marked by an original and sometimes bold elaboration of the notion of artistic perfection developed by the Carracci and embodied more specifically by Ludovico’s “synthesis of styles.” Illustrated with numerous color images, these two volumes provide a critical edition and annotated translation of Malvasia’s life of Guido. Based on a radical reassessment of the historical documentation and a profound investigation of Malvasia’s art criticism, these volumes offer the most thorough treatment to date of the artist’s work.

“Thanks to the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, DC, and above all to the publisher, Harvey Miller, these are volumes of the very highest quality, featuring large type, illustrations of all pictures, profound and extensive scholarship, and a translation on facing pages that makes Malvasia a pleasure to read. Harvey Miller has already set the bar high with its many volumes of the Corpus Rubenianum. The Malvasia is even more lavish (...).”

The decision to devote a research project at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, to the preparation of a complete English translation and Italian edition of Carlo Cesare Malvasia’s Felsina pittrice, was based upon the importance of the text for the history of art, and the need to make this available to a modern audience. The contributions of Lorenzo Pericolo, especially to the critical edition, and of the team of international scholars working together over the past years, have been essential to our success thus far. Now that four volumes have appeared, the value and importance of the project have become even greater than was at first apparent.

About the Malvasia Project

Elizabeth Cropper
Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC

La decisione di consacrare un progetto di ricerca nel Center for Advance Study in the Visual Arts (National Gallery of Art, Washington) all’edizione critica e traduzione integrale in inglese della Felsina pittrice di Carlo Cesare Malvasia fu dettata all’origine dalla considerazione della sua importanza per la storia dell’arte e la necessità di rendere il testo accessibile al pubblico odierno. I contributi di Lorenzo Pericolo (in particolare per l’edizione critica) e quelli degli altri studiosi internazionali che hanno collaborato con il progetto negli anni passati, sono stati cruciali per il nostro successo. Ora che quattro volumi della serie sono apparsi, il valore e l’importanza del progetto sono diventati ancora più evidenti.
ORDER FORM

I wish to order a copy of:

- **Early Bolognese Painting**
  xxvi + 536 p., 7 b/w ills, 150 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2012  
  ISBN 978-1-905375-84-4  
  Hardback: € 150 / $196.00

- **Life of Marcantonio Raimondi and Critical Catalogue of Prints by or after Bolognese Masters**
  2 vols, 844 p., 33 b/w ills, 877 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2017  
  Hardback: € 300 / $390.00

- **Life of Guido Reni**
  2 vols, 1152 p., 9 b/w ills, 367 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2019  
  Hardback: € 350 / $455.00

- **Lives of Domenichino and Francesco Gessi**
  xxiv + 414 p., 151 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2013  
  ISBN 978-1-909400-00-9  
  Hardback: € 150 / $196.00

All prices exclude VAT & Shipping costs.

Name:

Address:

City:   Postcode:

Country:

E-mail:

Tel:    Fax:

VAT n°:

Please keep me informed about future publications.

Date:   Signature:

An invoice outlining the different payment options will be sent to you together with your order.