

KNOWING ‘AS MUCH OF ART AS THE CAT’?: 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS ON THE OLD MASTERS

10 November 2017

Sainsbury Centre Lecture Theatre, National Gallery

Organised by Susanna Avery-Quash (National Gallery, London)
and Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck, University of London)

Conference programme

10.00–10.20 **Registration**

10.20–10.30 **Welcome**
Dr Susanna Avery-Quash, Senior Research Curator (History of Collecting),
National Gallery and Professor Hilary Fraser, Dean of Arts & Geoffrey Tillotson
Chair of Nineteenth-Century Studies, Birkbeck, University of London

10.30–11.15 **Keynote Address:**
Dr Meaghan Clarke (University of Sussex)
*The Women that Shaped Art History: Defining the ‘Masterpiece’ in the
Nineteenth Century*
Chair: Hilary Fraser

11.15–11.45 **Refreshment Break** (provided)

SESSION ONE

Chair: Susanna Avery-Quash

11.45–12.10 Professor Julie Sheldon (Liverpool John Moores University)
Lady Eastlake’s Collaborative Writing on the Old Masters

12.10–12.35 Dr Lene Østermark-Johansen (University of Copenhagen)
*“This will be a popular picture”: Giovanbattista Moroni’s ‘Tailor’ and the
Female Gaze*

- 12.35–13.00 Professor Patricia Rubin (New York University)
"The reverence for old masters is not all humbug and superstition": George Eliot, Lady Eastlake, and the humbug of Old Masters
- 13.00–13.15 Q&A session
- 13.15–14.15 **Lunch** (not provided)

SESSION TWO

Chair: Hilary Fraser

- 14.15-14.40 Professor Diane Apostolos-Cappadona (Georgetown University, Reiss)
"I can only see with woman's eyes...": Mrs Jameson on the Old Masters
- 14.40-15.05 Dr Zahira Véliz Bomford (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
How Mary Philadelphia Merrifield wrote on the arts: navigating networks in the Victorian age
- 15.05-15.30 Dr Caroline Palmer (Ashmolean Museum)
"A revolution in art": Maria Callcott on Poussin, painting and the Primitives
- 15.30-15.45 Q&A session
- 15.45-16.15 **Refreshment Break** (provided)

SESSION THREE

Chair: Dr Stephen Bending (Director, Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies)

- 16.15-16.40 Professor Patricia Pulham (University of Surrey)
Venus, Madonnas and Renaissance Art: Vernon Lee and the Old Masters
- 16.40-17.05 Maria Alambritis (Birkbeck, University of London; National Gallery)
"Such a pleasant little sketch...of this irritable artist": Women art writers and the revival of interest in Mantegna for the British public, 1881-1911
- 17.05-17.30 Dr Francesco Ventrella (University of Sussex)
Writing Under Pressure: Maud Cruttwell and the Professionalisation of Art History
- 17.30- 17.45 Q&A session.
Finish & Close of the Conference.