

Grechetto and Paggi's library: reading and painting about natural philosophy in the XVIIth century.

Gio. Benedetto Castiglione, *il Grechetto*, grew up in Genoa in the cultural environment of Giovanni Battista Paggi and experienced the charm of his rich library. Texts of natural philosophy, alchemy and science left a deep mark on the young artist and became subjects and feelings expressed in the perhaps most fanciful paintings of the seventeenth century. The possibility to recognize and read the volumes that were part of the Paggi's library, allows to better understand the deep and fruitful 'reading relationship' that the young *Grechetto* established with this particular collection of texts. The reconstruction of the cultural context and the relationship with books that Castiglione had in his youth and most likely for the rest of his life allows us to understand the origin of his pictorial poetry and its visceral and almost obsessive relationship with the representation of nature in all its shapes.

Author's Bio

Giacomo Montanari graduated in *Classics* at the University of Genoa, and then obtained a Master's Degree in *Art History* and the Ph.D. in *History and Conservation of Cultural Heritage* under the guidance of Lauro Magnani. He has written several papers on the relationship between literature and the visual arts between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, and published the book *Books Paintings Statues. Relationships between libraries, collections and art production in Genoa between the sixteenth and seventeenth century*. He collaborates with research groups at national and international level (University of Wrocław (PL); European Network for Baroque Cultural Heritage) and is teaching assistant at the Course of Modern History of the Degree Course in Cultural Heritage of the University Genoa and research fellow at the *Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura* in Turin.

Panel: *Converging Paths: Encounters between Art and Science I: The Artist and Science Books*

Organizers: Zuleika Murat, Università degli Studi di Padova; Chiara Ponchia, Università degli Studi di Padova

Chair: Chiara Ponchia, Università degli Studi di Padova

Giacomo Montanari, Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura
Grechetto and Paggi's Library: Reading and Painting about Natural Philosophy in the Seventeenth Century

Margarita-Ana Vázquez-Manassero, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
Books and Images of Science Collected by García de Loaysa, Preceptor of Philip III

Claudia Lehmann, Universität Bern
Ghiberti's Bronzes in the Light of Scientific Observations and Innovations