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978-0-521-18107-5 - The Arts of Collecting: Padre Sebastiano Resta and the Market for Drawings in Early Modern Europe

Genevieve Warwick

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The Arts of Collecting

PADRE SEBASTIANO RESTA AND THE MARKET FOR
DRAWINGS IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

The Arts of Collecting: Padre Sebastiano Resta and the Market for Drawings in Early Modern Europe examines the collection of art through an anthropological analysis of exchange and the social roles of material culture. Focussing on the collector Sebastiano Resta, Genevieve Warwick brings to light a crucial chapter in the history of collecting, that of the migration of art objects out of Italy to northern Europe during the late seventeenth century. Her study pins the history of collecting to broader changes in European economic history and analyses the epistemological frameworks for viewing that accompanied this transfer of artistic wealth. Warwick also demonstrates how early modern art collecting was shaped by the social mores of elite behaviour, which equated the possessive desire of the collector with the courtly ideals of the “arts of love.”

Genevieve Warwick is lecturer in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. A contributor to *The Art Bulletin*, *Word and Image*, and *Master Drawings*, she is also coeditor of *Commemorating Poussin* and of *Collecting Prints and Drawings in Europe, c. 1550–1800*.

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For my family

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Figure I. Carlo Maratta, *Sebastiano Resta examining an album of drawings*. Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth, 584, reproduced by permission of the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. (Photo courtesy of Photographic Survey of Private Collections, Courtauld Institute of Art.)