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978-0-521-66940-5 - The Cambridge Companion to Velázquez
Edited by Suzanne L. Stratton-Pruitt
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO **Velázquez**

The Cambridge Companion to Velázquez offers a synthetic overview of one of the greatest painters of Golden Age Spain and seventeenth-century Europe as a whole. With contributions from art historians and those working in other disciplines, this book offers fresh approaches to the vast literature on this artist. Velázquez's portraits of his patron, King Philip IV, and his wives are examined by two historians in an effort to reconstruct their reception and readings by contemporaries. Two historians of Golden Age Spanish literature provide an interdisciplinary account of the relationships between poetry, theater, and the visual arts at the Spanish court, as practiced by Velázquez, the poet Francisco de Quevedo, and the dramatist Calderón de la Barca. An expert on the history of Spanish music offers an unprecedented examination of how instruments "play" in Velázquez's compositions. Other essays guide the reader to an understanding of Velázquez's work – his training in his native Seville, reflections in his oeuvre of artistic currents from outside Spain, and how Velázquez's religious paintings may be understood within the religious context of Counter-Reformation Spain.

Suzanne L. Stratton-Pruitt is an independent scholar of Spanish Baroque art. A recipient of grants from the American Philosophical Society, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, she is the author of *The Immaculate Conception in Spanish Art*, which received an award for the best book on Spanish art published in English that year from the American Society for Art Historical Studies. In 1994, the Spanish government awarded Dr. Stratton-Pruitt the Lazo de Dama de la Orden de Isabel la Católica medal, in recognition of her work on behalf of the wider understanding of Spanish culture.

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Suzanne L. Stratton-Pruitt, editor of this volume, is the author of *The Immaculate Conception in Spanish Art*, published by Cambridge University Press in 1994. She has curated many exhibitions of Spanish art in all its variety, with the most recent, “Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Paintings from American Collections” on view at the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2002. Dr. Stratton is also the editor of a forthcoming volume on Velázquez’s *Las Meninas* in the Cambridge University Press series *Masterpieces of Western Painting*.

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