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978-0-521-79441-1 - The Culture of the High Renaissance: Ancients and Moderns in Sixteenth-Century Rome

Ingrid D. Rowland

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The Culture of the High Renaissance

ANCIENTS AND MODERNS
IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ROME

Between 1480 and 1520, a concentration of talented artists, including Melozzo da Forlì, Bramante, Pinturicchio, Raphael, and Michelangelo, arrived in Rome and produced some of the most enduring works of art ever created. This period, now called the High Renaissance, is generally considered to be one of the high points of Western civilization. How did it come about, and what were the forces that converged to spark such an explosion of creative activity? In this study, Ingrid Rowland examines the culture, society, and intellectual norms that generated the High Renaissance. Fueled by a volatile mix of economic development, scholarly longing for the glories of ancient civilization, and religious ferment, the High Renaissance, Rowland posits, was also a period in which artists, patrons, and scholars sought “new methods for doing new things.” This interdisciplinary study assesses the intellectual paradigm shift that occurred at the turn of the fifteenth century. It also finds and explains the connections between ideas, people, and the art works they created by looking at economics, art, contemporary understanding of classical antiquity, and social conventions.

Ingrid Rowland is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Chicago. A fellow of the American Academy in Rome and Villa I Tatti, she has edited *The Correspondence of Agostino Chigi* and has recently completed a new translation of Vitruvius’s *Ten Books of Architecture* (forthcoming). She contributes regularly to *The New York Review of Books*.

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To my parents

F. Sherwood Rowland
Joan Lundberg Rowland

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