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0521837227 - Cosimo I de' Medici and his Self-Representation in Florentine Art and Culture

Henk Th. van Veen

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## COSIMO I DE' MEDICI and HIS SELF-REPRESENTATION IN FLORENTINE ART and CULTURE



In this study, Henk Th. van Veen reassesses how Cosimo de' Medici represented himself in images during the course of his rule. Traditionally, Cosimo is seen to be posing as a republican prince in the images made of him during the early years of his reign. As his power grew, he represented himself as a proud dynastic and territorial ruler. By contrast, van Veen argues that Cosimo represented himself as a lofty ruler in the initial phase of his regime, but that from 1559 onward, he posed as a citizen-prince. Analyzing all of Cosimo's major commissions, both art and architecture, to support his argument, van Veen also examines historiographical and literary evidence, as well as the civic traditions, rites, and customs that Cosimo promoted in sixteenth-century Florence.

Henk Th. van Veen is professor of art history at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. A scholar of Italian Renaissance art and culture, he contributed to journals such as *Prospettiva*, the *Journal of the Courtauld and Warburg Institutes*, *The Burlington Magazine* and *Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorisches Instituts zu Florenz*. He also coedited books in other fields, such as *The Golden Age of Dutch Painting in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 1999, with Frans Grijzenhout) and *Early Netherlandish Paintings: Rediscovery, Reception and Research* (2005), with Bernhard Ridderbos and Anne van Buren).

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HENK TH. VAN VEEN

*University of Groningen*

TRANSLATED BY ANDREW P. MCCORMICK



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*To Mark and Heather Roberts and to Cristiana Talenti*

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