

THE ART COLLECTOR IN EARLY MODERN ITALY



Lorenzo Lotto's *Portrait of Andrea Odoni* is one of the most famous paintings of the Italian Renaissance. Son of an immigrant and a member of the non-noble citizen class, Odoni understood how the power of art could make a name for himself and his family in his adopted homeland. Far from emulating Venetian patricians, however, he set himself apart through the works he collected and the way he displayed them. In this book, Monika Schmitter imaginatively reconstructs Odoni's house – essentially a 'portrait' of Odoni through his surroundings and possessions. Schmitter's detailed analysis of Odoni's life and portrait reveals how sixteenth-century individuals drew on contemporary ideas about spirituality, history, and science to forge their own theories about the power of things and the agency of objects. She shows how Lotto's painting served as a meta-commentary on the practice of collecting and on the ability of material things to transform the self.

Monika Schmitter, Professor of Italian Renaissance and Baroque art at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, has written about collecting and domestic art in Venice for over twenty years. She was a fellow at the Villa I Tatti Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies and at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC.



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Andrea Odoni And His Venetian Palace

MONIKA SCHMITTER

University of Massachusetts Amherst



CAMBRIDGE
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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108844086
DOI: 10.1017/9781108933315

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First published 2021

Printed in Singapore by Markono Print Media Pte Ltd

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Schmitter, Monika Anne, author.

Title: The art collector in early modern Italy : Andrea Odoni and his Venetian palace / Monika Schmitter, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Description: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021058702 (print) | LCCN 2021058703 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108844086 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108933315 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Odoni, Andrea, 1488–1545. | Art – Collectors and collecting – Italy – Venice – History – 16th century. | Art and society – Italy – Venice – History – 16th century.

Classification: LCC N5273.2.O37 S36 2021 (print) | LCC N5273.2.O37 (ebook) | DDC 707.5–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021058702>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021058703>

ISBN 978-1-108-84408-6 Hardback

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Furthermore:
a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund

Cambridge University Press gratefully acknowledges the generous support of this book from Furthermore, a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

To my parents, Barbara Schmitter Heisler and Philippe Schmitter, and my brother, Marc Schmitter, who have inspired me and helped see me through difficult times.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS IS BOOK HAS been a long time in coming, so there are many people I would like to thank for help, advice, and constructive feedback at various stages. First, I would like to thank the organizations that funded the book: the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Renaissance Society of America, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. A generous grant from Furthermore, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, helped finance the illustration program. Beatrice Rehl at Cambridge University Press saw the value of the book from the first time she heard about it and has shepherded it through publication with efficiency and grace; many thanks also to Kaye Barbaro, Kathleen Fearn, and Jayavel Radhakrishnan for production planning, editing, and general oversight.

I am very grateful to the staff at all levels at the Archivio di Stato, the Marciana Library, and especially the Library of the Museo Correr, who have been generous and kind on my various research trips to Venice. One of the things I love most about working on Venice is the community of scholars that gathers at these institutions. Among my fellow archive rats, I single out Anna Bellavitis, Matteo Casini, Beth Glixon, Jonathan Glixon, Vittorio Mandelli, and Reinhold Mueller for special thanks. I am also grateful for conversations and advice from other scholars of Venetian culture and history, including Linda Carroll, Philip Cottrell, Barbara Lynn-Davis, Michel Hochmann, Deborah Howard, Peter Humfrey, Daniel Maze, Sarah McHam, Dennis Romano, Anne Markham Schulz, Helena Szépe, Raymond

X } ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Waddington, and Diana Wright. I am especially indebted to Beverly Louise Brown, Patricia Fortini Brown, Alison Luchs, and Debra Pincus for their support and encouragement.

Beyond Venice proper, Josip Belamarić, Kathryn Bosi, Andy Bowers, David Alan Brown, Elena Calvillo, Stephen Campbell, Kathleen Wren Christian, Rupert Featherstone, Diane Owen Hughes, Kris Kelsey, Nora Lambert, Claudia Laurenze-Landsberg, Giovanni Pagliarulo, Susannah Rutherglen, George Ryan, Siyu Shen, Patricia Simons, Barbara Weber, and Lucy Whitaker provided help and input at various venues and over email.

I am lucky to be part not only of a supportive home institution, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, but also of the larger Five College Consortium in western Massachusetts. The staff at all the libraries and the University's interlibrary loan office made my research possible. I also thank my colleagues Bettina Bergmann, the late Craig Harbison, Ann Rosalind Jones, Jim Kelly, Brian

Ogilvie, Teresa Ramsby, Peter Stern, the late John Varriano, and Donald Weber for their suggestions. Brian Shelburne was instrumental in finding and editing photographs.

This book is dedicated to my biological family, but they are not my only family. I want to thank my dear friends at home, Gülru Çakmak, Cathy Luna, and Jutta Sperling, and my more widely cast "family" members, John Gagné, Liz Horodowich, and Tim McCall, all of whom read parts of the manuscript. My stepfather Martin Heisler and family friend Elissa Weaver have played special roles in fostering my interests. My Venetian "sister" Antonella Mallus and her daughter Francesca have been unfailingly kind and supportive over many, many years. Without my stepmother, Terry Karl, I am not at all sure I would be where I am today – I am deeply grateful to her for her faith in me. Last, but not least, I thank my partner Paul Staiti, whose astute eye and red editing pen have made this a better book. I am so happy to share my life with him.