
Sara Matthews-Grieco



On 27 November Sara Matthews-Grieco gave a public lecture at the Fondazione San Carlo in Modena entitled “Ritratti di famiglia. Il modello della Sacra Famiglia e la rappresentazione del rapporto tra i coniugi nell’iconografia moderna.” This talk examined the evolution of representations of the Holy Family in Renaissance and early-modern Italy, where the sacred model not only reflects changes in the social organization of the household, but also dictates the norm for family portraiture in this period. At the same time, however, visual media was used to express a certain amount of caveats with respect to family life, where the relationship between husband and wife was not always stable, and matrimony was seen more as a foretaste of purgatory than as an earthly paradise.

Alick M. McLean

Alick McLean has just been honored with the College Art Association’s prestigious Millard Meiss Publication Fund grant for his forthcoming book on Prato, entitled *The Urban Everyman. The Birth, Life, and Death of Medieval Prato in Tuscany*. The Meiss grant subsidizes publishing more high quality images than would otherwise be possible. *The Urban Everyman* includes 148 images, nearly all of which are from new photo and CAD drawing surveys. The book explores what Professor McLean calls “the enigma of the ordinary.” He traces how the merchant citizens of medieval Prato founded and built their city in their own image, only to become seduced by urban and architectural forms from Rome and the feudal countryside. As the Pratese redirected urban investments from business and trade to monumentality, they ceased to sustain the infrastructure and commercial identity that had brought them their initial success. Their cultural highpoint matched their economic and political nadir, in 1351, when the town lost its sovereignty to Florence. The book will be published in the fall of 2008 by Yale University Press.

Jonathan Nelson



Jonathan Nelson has recently published a series of book reviews. For the Summer issue of *Renaissance Quarterly* he sang the praise of Cristina Acidini’s *Michelangelo Scultore*, and for the Fall number, he compared the merits of two major monographs on Sandro Botticelli, by Alessandro Cecchi and Frank Zöllner. Jonathan also wrote a review article on “Purchasing Power in Renaissance Italy” for the

Oxford Art Journal, where he discussed two important studies that explore the economic implications of art: Michelle O’Malley’s *The Business of Art* and Evelyn Welch’s *Shopping in the Renaissance*. Jonathan’s own book, *Filippino Lippi*—co-authored with Patrizia Zambrano and published in 2004—was the subject of a lecture by the authors. This formed part of an innovative series organized by the Museo Civico Medievale of Bologna, which invites scholars to give “backstage” views of art history monographs.