



Patronage in Sixteenth Century Italy

Mary Hollingsworth

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‘She carefully weaves together political circumstances, personal ambitions and evocative detail to create a backdrop for the activities of patrons.’

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A comprehensive study of the patrons of sixteenth-century Italian art, this book investigates the motives behind the commissioning of the magnificent palaces, villas, churches, statues, portraits, fresco cycles and altarpieces for which this period is justly celebrated.

This was a century of famous patron-artist partnerships: Pope Julius II and Bramante and the rebuilding of St Peter’s; Pope Paul III and Michelangelo’s Last Judgement in the Sistine Chapel; Palladio’s beautiful villas in the Veneto for Venetian patricians; and Vasari’s work for Cosimo I that established Florence as a centre of artistic excellence.

The book examines how these patrons financed their projects, what factors lay behind their choice of styles and themes and their often complex relationships with their artists, agents and advisors in an era of momentous political and religious change.

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