

Two Giants of the Arts of the Cinquecento in Rome

Thursday 20 April at 6.30 for 7pm

by Rosa Maria Letts



Sebastiano del Piombo: La Pietà

As many of you will know, an Interesting Exhibition opened in the National Gallery on 15 March on Michelangelo Buonarroti and Sebastiano del Piombo. Two giants of High Renaissance Rome, who met there as Michelangelo was finishing to fresco the Sistine Ceiling and Sebastiano came hoping to receive commissions from Pope and Cardinals.

Some of Michelangelo's "Ignudi" became part of Sebastiano's grammar of art, the monumentality of Michelangelo's figures, copied even by Raphael, appeared also in Sebastiano's paintings but this young Venetian was also able to capture his moods and metaphysical qualities. In his silent biblical scenes the characters seem to communicate directly with God.

Sebastiano became one of Michelangelo's best friends and was given suggestions and teachings by the older artist, even offered some of his drawings. Did he actually participate in some of his competitions?

Only two paintings, two huge masterpieces by Sebastiano - his famous Pietà' 'exceptionally lent by Viterbo in Italy and "The

Raising of Lazarus' - the first painting brought into the then new National Gallery - will be the centre pieces of the exhibition, around which earlier paintings and drawings by the two artists will be introduced, plus letters and documents. Michelangelo's drawings will be essential to the whole exhibition and in any case the two artists will be in focus, and more their collaboration. Are there some figures painted by Michelangelo in these famous works?

Contrary to many of the critics' comments, the exhibition is a scholarly and beautiful presentation of the subject.

On Thursday 20 April at 6.30 for 7pm I will give a talk about this great artistic friendship and its significance at that point in High Renaissance Art.

Where: 2nd floor, 55 Exhibition Road,
London SW7 2PN

Cost: £20 members & friends; £25 guests;
£10 full-time teachers and students



Sebastiano del Piombo: The Raising of Lazarus

For all those that pay in advance by bank transfer the cost is £15

To book contact **Accademia Italiana / Artstur** - Tel: **07720812183** - email: artstur@gmail.com
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