

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## LECTURE SERIES FB07

27.11.

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**(Art History)**

**Padre Sebastiano Resta's  
"Galleria Portatile" –  
the Visualisation of  
the History of Art in  
the Late 17th Century**

Sebastiano Resta's (1635–1714) "Galleria Portatile" is an album of masterdrawings, which includes over 250 drawings and prints from various Italian artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raffael, Titian and Giotto. The album's most outstanding particularity is Padre Resta's handwriting on every montage in form of annotations, notes and genealogies. His remarks frame the drawings aesthetically as well as on a contextual level. At times his writings serve as arguments for his connoisseural attributions or educate the reader about

biographical or stylistic facts of a certain artist. This commemorates an early erudite conversational culture, here transformed into a written source. Resta's sheets display his vast knowledge of art-literature and stylistic particularities, as well as his expressive creativity. He arranges traditional knowledge in a new way trying to create visual evidence. My PhD is dedicated to the procedures Padre Resta utilises to materialise his connoisseural knowledge on the pages of his most intact album – the "Galleria Portatile." It will focus on the interaction of his textual and graphic sources as well as their origins and contextual transformation processes throughout the procedure of their compilation.

Through Sebastiano Resta, who can be perceived as an archetype of an 17th century erudite, my paper aims to introduce you to the early access to art theoretical knowledge which will later on be part of the principles of art history as it is practiced by scholars to this day.