

CURRICULUM VITAE

TERESA ESPOSITO

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Teresa Esposito (1985) studied art history at the University of Naples and KU Leuven (2005-2010). She received her PhD in Art History from Ghent University in 2018, with a dissertation entitled *Peter Paul Rubens and the Distribution of Secret Knowledge in Antwerp and Italy*. Previously she worked as a research assistant at the Rubens House in Antwerp where she contributed to several exhibitions (*Room for Art in Seventeenth-Century Antwerp*, 2009-10; *Palazzo Rubens: The Master as Architect*, 2011). Her research is at the crossroads of art history, the history of science, and philosophy in the early modern period, with a particular focus on the Low Countries. She is a member of the Sarton Centre for History of Science at Ghent University and a visiting scholar at the Rubenianum, Antwerp. Currently, she is finishing her monograph about Rubens' attitude towards natural philosophy and modern science (Brepols Publishers).

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Early modern (16th- and 17th-century) Flemish art; intellectual history of early modern Europe; history of knowledge; art history; history of science; early modern natural philosophy and alchemy; art theory; history of the imagination; history of scholarship; early modern transcultural exchange of art and ideas; humanism, and the long social history of the Republic of Letters.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

March 2018

PhD, Kunstwetenschappen (Art History), Department of Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies, Ghent University.

Dissertation: "Peter Paul Rubens and the Distribution of Secret Knowledge in Antwerp and Italy"

Supervisor: Prof. dr. Koenraad Jonckheere (Ghent University); co-supervisor: Prof. dr. Sven Dupré (Utrecht University)

Readers: Prof. dr. Katlijne van der Stighelen, Prof. dr. Maximilaan Martens, Prof. dr. Ralph

Dekoninck, Prof. dr. Maarten Van Dyck

July 2010

MA, Kunstwetenschappen (Art History), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (with high distinction).

Thesis: “Het portret van Rubens met zijn zoon Albert voor een beeld van Hecate Triformis”

Advisor: Prof. dr. Katlijne Van der Stighelen

October 2008

BA, Art History, Università “Federico II” di Napoli (with the greatest distinction and the congratulations of the jury).

Thesis: “Il Museo Mayer van den Bergh ad Anversa”

Advisor: Prof. dr. Arturo Fittipaldi

October 2007 – June 2008

1st year Conservation Studies (paintings); Historical Painting Techniques (Flemish primitives; 15th century Italian tempera painting) at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

March 2022 – present

Editorial reviewer for the interdisciplinary journal *Studi Dellaportiani*, dedicated to the life and works of the Neapolitan natural philosopher Giovan Battista della Porta (1535-1615).

September 2020 – November 2020

Translator, 17th century Flemish-Italian. Italian translation and historical critical comparison of twenty biographies of Italian artists included in Cornelis de Bie’s *Het gulden cabinet* (1662), to appear in a forthcoming publication by Irene Baldriga (Università “La Sapienza”, Rome).

Biographies of Italian artist: Guido Reni; Orazio Gentileschi; Alessandro Leone Varotari (alias il Padovanino); Pietro Testa; Pietro da Cortona; Francesco Maltese; Francesco Romanelli; Andrea Vaccaro; Francesco Albani; Mattia Preti; Mario Nuzzi; Andrea Sacchi; Giovanni Maria Galli da Bibiena; Michelangelo Cerquozzi; Salvator Rosa; Michelangelo Colonna; Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione; Domenichino; Massimo Stanzione; Giovanni Lanfranco.

October 2019 – October 2020

Member of the expert committee on the exhibition project *Een eeuw van verwondering. Vijfhonderd jaar nieuwsgierigheid en innovatie – PLANTIN 2020* (Nova Reperta series), Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp.

September 2019 – November 2019

Postdoc Fellow at the Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, Utrecht University.

September 2018 – September 2020

Visiting Scholar at the Rubenianum, Antwerp.

November 2012 – present

Lecturer and active member of the Sarton Centre for History of Science, Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences, Ghent University.

October 2012 – March 2018

Instructor (Seminars for Bachelor and Master students); correction of exam papers, bachelor's and master's theses; assistantship during exams, Ghent University.

October 2012 – March 2018

Doctoral Fellow of the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research-Belgium (FWO), Ghent University.

September 2010 – May 2011

Research Curator at the Rubens House, Antwerp (full time).

(consultant; assistance to the authors of the catalogue) B. Uppenkamp, B. Van Beneden and Piet Lombaerde (eds.), Exhibition cat.: *Palazzo Rubens. The Master as Architect (10 September – 11 December 2011)*, Rubenshuis, Antwerp; Brussels, Mercatorfonds, 2011.

Research on the *Saint Sebastian*, a 17th century painting after a Rubens's original (Palazzo Corsini, Rome) and a long-term loan of the Antwerp museum.

November 2009 – July 2011

Translator, Dutch-Italian (Public documents: notarial deeds; legal transactions; data sheets for various companies); loan requests for exhibitions.

October 2009

Stage at the Rubens House in Antwerp, while obtaining my Master degree at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL).

On the curator's request and with an eye for a temporary exhibition, I carried out research for one month on a recent acquisition of the Rubens House, *The Feast of Saint Martin*, a 17th century painting by an imitator of Maarten van Cleve, which had been retouched by Rubens.

April 2009 – June 2012

Consultancy for art dealers (16th- and 17th-century Flemish and Italian art)

April 2009 – June 2009

Research Assistant at the Rubens House, Antwerp (full time).

(consultant; assistance to the authors of the catalogue) B. van Beneden and A. van Suchtelen (eds.), Exhibition cat.: *Room for Art in Seventeenth-Century Antwerp (29 November 2009 – 28 February 2010)*, Rubenshuis & Mauritshuis, Antwerp – The Hague, Zwolle, Waanders Uitgevers, 2009-2010.

January 2009 – September 2011

Sales Consultant Art & Antiques at Axel Pairon Gallery, Antwerp.

January 2005 – June 2007

Art & craftsmanship, Studio d'Arte Marcello Aversa, Sorrento (Italy).

RESEARCH STAYS ABROAD

2011 – 2012

Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), Bibliothèque Richelieu and Département des Estampes, Paris.

February 2012

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPI), Berlin.

December 2012 – January 2013

Academia Belgica, Rome.

May 2013

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPI), Berlin.

June 2013

The Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, London.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Esposito, T. (forthcoming 2022), *Rubens and Modern Science. Mastering Natural Philosophy in 17th century Europe* (accepted for publication after peer review by Brepols Publishers)
<http://www.brepols.net/Pages/BrowseBySeries.aspx?TreeSeries=NUGAE>

Journal articles and book chapters (*peer reviewed)

Esposito, T. (2013), 'De Heilige Cecilia', in Koenraad Jonckheere ed., Exhibition cat.: *Michiel Coxcie. De Vlaamse Rafaël*, Leuven, Davidsfonds Uitgeverij, pp. 118-119.

Esposito, T. (2015), 'Portrait of Rubens and his son Albert,' Exhibition cat.: *Rubens in Private. The Master portrays his Family*, Rubenshuis & Rubenianum, pp. 194-195, nr. 24.

* Esposito, T. (2016), 'Occult knowledge and sacred geometry: a new interpretation of a portrait of Rubens and his son from the Hermitage Museum,' in *De Zeventiende Eeuw. Cultuur in de Nederlanden in interdisciplinair perspectief* 32 (2), pp. 211-234.
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18352/dze.10130>

* Esposito, T. (2018), 'Ignis artificiosus: Images of God and the Universe in Rubens's Depiction of Antique Shields', in *Early Modern Low Countries* 2.2, pp. 244-277.

DOI: <https://www.emlcjournal.org/articles/10.18352/emlc.70/>

Esposito, T. (2018), *Peter Paul Rubens and the Distribution of Secret Knowledge in Antwerp and Italy*, PhD diss. University of Ghent.

Esposito, T. (16 April 2018), 'Rubens flirtte met esoterie', in *De Standaard*.

Esposito, T. (May 2018), 'Een God in het diepst van zijn gedachten', in *EOS Wetenschap/Geschiedenis. Special Issue Barokjaar 2018. Rubens inspireert*, pp. 44-47.

* Esposito, T. (2018), 'Phantasia, embriologia e la bella pittura tra Giovan Battista Della Porta e Otto van Veen', in *Atti del convegno: Il cenacolo alchemico. Incontri ed eventi ispirati al pensiero di Giovan Battista Della Porta (Napoli, 24-26 maggio 2018)*, eds. Alfonso Paoletta and Gennaro Rispoli, Museo delle Arti Sanitarie, Napoli, Edizioni Il Faro d'Ippocrate, 2018, pp. 171-196.

Esposito, T. (book review, 2018), 'Donato Verardi. *Logica e magia. Giovan Battista Della Porta e i segreti della natura*, coll. *Dellaportiana. Studi e testi di filosofia naturale*. Agorà & CO. 2017, in *Lo Sguardo. Rivista di Filosofia Online* n. 27, II, pp. 375-377. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3462532>

* Esposito, T. (2020), 'Black Ethiopians and the origin of *materia prima* in Rubens's images of Creation', in *Oud Holland. Journal for Art of the Low Countries*, vol. 133, nr. 1, pp. 10-32 <https://oudholland.rkd.nl/index.php/news/36-may-2020-the-breakthrough-of-therese-schwartz>

* Esposito, T. (2020), 'Rubens's encounter with natural philosophy and the 'occult sciences' in 17th century Italy', in *Rubens e la cultura italiana nella prima metà del XVII secolo, Palazzo Venezia - Musei Capitolini, Rome 17-18-19 December 2018*, eds. Cecilia Paolini and Raffaella Morselli, Roma, Viella, pp. 233-246.

* Esposito, T., 'Fantasia & Ingenuity in Rubens' Creative Process', *Atelier sur l'Imagination dans les théories des arts*, UCL (Louvain-La Nueve) (in progress)

* Esposito, T., 'Rubens's portrait of Paracelsus and some considerations on the artist's views on the spagyric art', (in progress)

* Esposito, T., 'Rubens's Four Rivers in Vienna, an allegory of the human body?' *The Netherlands Yearbook for History of Art/Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek 71* (in progress)

Esposito, T. (2020), 'Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle', in *Dizionario storico delle scienze naturali a Napoli dal Rinascimento all'Illuminismo – Storia della Campania. Risorse in rete per la storia del territorio e del patrimonio culturale*, ed. Donato Verardi, Firenze, Edizioni Clori.
<http://www.storiadellacampania.it/dssnn:de-granvelle-antoine-perrenot>

* Esposito, T. (2022), 'Rubens' study of the *Borghese Gladiator* and Antiquarianism in the Lincean Academy', in *Kunstgeschichte. Open Peer Reviewed Journal* (forthcoming)

* Esposito, T. (2022), 'Ricerche fisiognomiche nel taccuino di Rubens e nella *Physiognomonia* di Della Porta', in *Studi Dellaportiani. Rivista Interdisciplinare I* (forthcoming)

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

'The keystone of the portico of Rubens's House', Workshop *Art & Alchemy*, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (February 2012)

'Peter Paul Rubens en de distributie van geheime kennis in Antwerpen en Italië', PALET-studiedag, KULeuven (26 October 2012)

'Occult knowledge, Alchemy and Sacred Geometry: some considerations on a portrait of Rubens from the Hermitage Museum', *Scientiae. Disciplines of Knowing in the Early-Modern World*, Warwick University (April 2013)

'Occult knowledge and sacred geometry: a new interpretation of a portrait of Rubens and his son from the Hermitage Museum', *Künstlerwissen. The History and Theory of Artists' Knowledge*, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (May 2013)

'Collecting Magical Gems in Seventeenth-Century Antwerp: The Case of Peter Paul Rubens', *Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America*, New York (March 2014)

'*Ignis artificiosus*, Images of God and the Universe in Rubens's Depiction of Antique Shields', *Fifth Young Researchers Days in Logic, Philosophy of Science and History of Science*, Brussels (November 2016)

'Black Africans and the origin of *materia prima* in Rubens's images of Creation', *Scientiae. Disciplines of Knowing in the Early-Modern World*, University of Padua (April 2017)

'Peter Paul Rubens and the Distribution of Secret Knowledge in Antwerp and Italy', *Onderzoeksdag van de Werkgroep Italië Studies (WIS)*, Amsterdam (4 October 2017)

'Peter Paul Rubens and the Distribution of Secret Knowledge in Antwerp and Italy', *Sarton Centre for the History of Science*, University of Ghent (26 October 2017)

'Black Africans and the origin of *materia prima* in Rubens's images of Creation', PALET-studiedag, KULeuven (27 April 2018)

'Phantasia, embriologia e la bella pittura tra Giovan Battista Della Porta e Otto van Veen', *Il Cenacolo Alchemico e Giovan Battista Della Porta. Incontri ed eventi ispirati al pensiero di Giovan Battista Della Porta*, Museo delle Arti Sanitarie, Naples (24-26 May 2018) (invited speaker)

'Rubens's Theoretical Notebook: analysis and context', *International Winter School on Rubens and Italy. Rubens e la Cultura Italiana: 1600-1608*, Accademia Belgica, Rome (15 December 2018) (invited speaker)

'Rubens, a student of Nature? A brief account of the artist's attitude towards natural philosophy', *Rubens e la cultura italiana nella prima metà del XVII secolo*, Palazzo Venezia - Musei Capitolini, Rome (17-18-19 December 2018) (invited speaker)

'*Phantasia* and *inventio*: Bridging philosophy and art theory in early modern Low Countries', *Presentation moment for Visiting Scholars*, Rubenianum, Antwerp (29 January 2019)

'*Phantasia* & Ingenuity in Rubens's creative process', *Atelier sur l'Imagination dans les théories des arts*, UCL (Louvain-La Nueve) organized by Ralph Dekoninck (7 May 2019) (invited speaker)

'Peter Paul Rubens. A Student of Nature in Post-Tridentine Europe', *Workshop of the Joined Doctoral Program in Arts and Archaeology*, Università di Verona - University of Ghent, Verona (3-4 June 2019) (invited speaker)

'La phantasia nell'opera di Thomas Fienus e di Jean-Baptiste Van Helmont: un confronto', «*Penser autrement les lettres et les arts : la voie/x de la scolastique (1500-1700)*» (Louvain-la-Neuve, 16-18 November 2020)

'Ricerche fisiognomiche nel taccuino di Rubens e nella *Physiognomonica* di Della Porta, *La rappresentazione delle emozioni dalla Humana Physiognomonica di G. B. della Porta ad oggi: semiotica, letteratura, arti e psicologia*, Piano di Sorrento (4 December 2021) (invited speaker)

'Men and Beasts. Physiognomical studies in Rubens's notebook', *L'Accademia dei Lincei e i Fiamminghi nel primo Seicento, tra scienza e arte*, Accademia Belgica, Rome (2021?)

'Physiognomics in Rubens' Theoretical notebook', *HNA Conference Amsterdam – The Hague, 2-5 June 2022* (session "Art and Philosophy in the Early Modern Netherlands"), University of Amsterdam – Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD)

TEACHING

GHENT UNIVERSITY:

An Introduction to Iconography and Iconology, Seminar for Bachelor students, March 2014 (in Dutch)

The Rosicrucian movement and its reception in 17th century Low Countries, Seminar for Master students, October 2017 (in English)

UNIVERSITÀ “LA SAPIENZA” – ACADEMIA BELGICA, ROMA:

Rubens’s Theoretical Notebook: analysis and context, *International Winter School on Rubens and Italy. Rubens e la Cultura Italiana: 1600-1608*. Seminar for PhD students organized by Cecilia Paolini (Università “La Sapienza”, Rome) and Raffaella Morselli (University of Teramo, Teramo), 10-15 December 2018 (in English)

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA:

Peter Paul Rubens. A Student of Nature in Post-Tridentine Europe, *Workshop of the Joined Doctoral Program in Arts and Archaeology*. Seminar for PhD students from Ghent University and Università degli Studi di Verona, 3-4 June 2019.

At the invitation of Prof. Bernard Aikema/speakers: Piero Boccardo (Superintendent of the City Collections of Genoa) and Jill Dunkerton (National Gallery, London) (in English)

ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Scientiae. Disciplines of Knowing in the Early-Modern World, Queen’s University, Belfast, 12-15th June 2019

Co-organizer (with Ruth S. Noyes, National Museum of Denmark/Novo Nordisk Foundation), panel session “Imagination in Early Modern Theory and Material Practice” for the 2019 *Scientiae* conference.

Chair: Irene Galandra Cooper (University of Cambridge); Ruth S. Noyes (National Museum of Denmark/Novo Nordisk Foundation).

Speakers: Prof. Marcia Pointon (University of Manchester/Courtauld Institute of Art); Prof. Aline Smeesters (UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve); Jessie Wei-Hsuan Chen (PhD Candidate, Utrecht University).

EXTERNAL/PEER REVIEWS/ADVISORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Reviews of scholarly manuscripts for: Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art (JHNA); Studi Dellaportiani. Rivista Interdisciplinare.

LANGUAGES

Italian; fluent in Dutch and English; reading comprehension and spoken German and French.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Rubonianum, Antwerp

Sarton Centre for History of Science, Ghent University.

Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Louvain-la-Neuve, ('collaborateur scientifique').

Founding member of the "Centro Internazionale di Studi G. B. Della Porta", April 2021

PRIZES

2002

1st place Art Competition "Fabrizio Romano" with a drawing in red chalk or sanguine, Naples.