

EUROPEAN VISUAL CULTURE SEMINAR

Glenys Adams

A Re-examination of Guercino's Altarpiece for the Donati Chapel in the private rooms of S. Filippo Neri in S. Maria in Vallicella, Rome



Guercino was well-known for his large altarpiece paintings and yet he undertook a commission for a small altarpiece in a private chapel located behind the very public painting by Guido Reni of S. Filippo Neri in S. Maria in Vallicella, the main church of the Oratorians in Rome. His acceptance of this commission seems to reinforce the traditional view that Guercino 'played second fiddle' in Rome to Guido. This paper re-addresses the issue by examining the painting within the context of the Donati chapel. It is argued that Guercino agreed to the commission to gain favour with the Oratorians, who had established a significant presence in Bologna, where Guercino based himself after Guido's death. It is also argued that Guercino's altarpiece is deliberately modelled on an unpublished painting by Guido.

Monday 13th July 2009, 6:30pm

Rm 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building

All Welcome

If you would like to join us for dinner afterwards in Lygon St, please RSVP to Mark Shephard shepm@unimelb.edu.au