

Susan Russell

Salvator Rosa and Herman van Swanevelt



The influence of Claude Lorrain and Claude's coeval, the Dutch 'Italianate' painter, Herman van Swanevelt (c. 1603-55), on Salvator Rosa's landscape paintings has often been observed, yet because of Claude's greater exposure in the literature of art history, Swanevelt's role in Rosa's development has not been so extensively considered. When Rosa (1615-73) arrived in Rome in the 1630s, however, Swanevelt was as well established as Claude. With consistent patronage from Rome's noble families, he enjoyed a similarly elevated status as a landscape specialist. At the end of the decade, one of Rosa's major commissions for the Este family also involved Swanevelt, and it is from around this time that Rosa's landscapes show divergences from the style and subjects of his early Neapolitan views and genre subjects. Rosa's landscapes became increasingly idiosyncratic, and the late works in particular reveal a heightened drama and expressiveness in which it is possible to see elements similar to those in Swanevelt's prints and paintings produced during the 1630s, works that would have been known to Rosa before he left for Florence in 1640. This paper will examine Swanevelt's role in the development of Salvator Rosa's landscape paintings through an analysis of subject matter, compositional formulae and pictorial motifs.

Monday 20th April 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
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