

EUROPEAN VISUAL CULTURE SEMINAR



Piers Baker-Bates

Cambridge University

Sebastiano del Piombo

Cultural Exchange between Italy & Spain



High Renaissance Rome has been envisioned as hermetic until the traumatic effects of the Sack of 1527 dispersed throughout Europe its community of artists. In contrast to this traditionally Italo-centric view, the export trade in artistic ideas, if not in physical objects, was flourishing throughout the period 1492-1534. Given Rome's position as the diplomatic centre of the Italian peninsula and the varied nationalities of the personnel employed in the Curia, the achievements of High Renaissance culture were always easily accessible to foreign patrons. As the export market flourished, the aesthetics of Rome became a standard by which the prestige and culture of an individual could be measured.

No particular group of 'foreigners' was better placed to exploit this than the Spanish. The post of royal ambassador from 1506-21 was held by the Valencian aristocrat, Don Jeronimo de Vich y Vallterra. Vich brought to Valencia two works by Sebastiano del Piombo and designs for contemporary palazzo. In these activities not only was he consciously emulating the Borgia, who had first brought the Italian Renaissance to Valencia, but in turn his imports provided a model for the succeeding generations of Valencian artists to emulate.

Monday 7 August 6.45 pm

Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building

All Welcome