CrossMark

This is a nuanced study of a complex and protean topic, and it covers a lot of ground, both theoretical and material. As is inevitable with such an ambitious project, there are a few wrinkles. One problematic term in the book is "tonal" eroticism (sometimes "intoned" in Pearson's formulation). In the introduction, Pearson explains that this term refers to subtle, slightly ambiguous, and indirect representations of sexual acts, and as an example gives a detail from the central panel of Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* triptych, in which "a man pulls bouquets from another man's anus in an oblique yet probable allusion to sodomy" (2). It is hard to understand this as anything other than an act of anal penetration, frankly, and "subtle" or "indirect" are not the words that spring to mind here. The term then vanishes for almost two thirds of the book, finally resurfacing in chapter 5, concerning the incunable edition on the soul's pursuit of the infant Christ, "a resource for exploring the limits of morality as shaped by tonal eroticism" (198).

The term crops up repeatedly in the following discussion of the imagery (both literary and visual) of wounds and wounding, but it does not seem strictly necessary—Pearson's analysis of the religious erotics of pain and its relationship to the garden/wilderness dyad could stand on its own without the aid of this vaguely defined notion of tonality. Also distracting are the editorial errors that sprinkle the text, beginning on the first page, where the word "taut" is rendered as "taught" (an eggcorn repeated on page 299). The misattribution of *The Garden of Earthly Delights* to the Second Gouda Woodcutter on page 2 and the substitution of "epithelium" for "epithalamium" on page 14 get the reader off to a rough start and detract from the complex argument that Pearson lays out in the introduction. The erudition, scope, and analytical rigor of the book deserve better, but in the end, the editorial missteps do not seriously compromise the integrity of this valuable contribution to understanding the nuances of Marian and Christological imagery in the early modern Netherlands.

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Luisa Roldán. Catherine Hall-van den Elsen.
Illuminating Women Artists: Renaissance and Baroque. London: Lund Humphries, 2021. 144 pp. £30.

In 2009, the Getty held a study day to celebrate the completed restoration of Luisa Roldán's *San Jinés de la Jara*. Its stated aim was to focus on Roldán's artistic contributions and the contexts in which she lived and worked. However, not a single participant actually spoke about her sculptures or even about early modern Spanish sculpture at any length, focusing instead on contemporary painters, collecting practices, and women writers. It was perplexing, but not entirely surprising. Particularly at that time, there

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were few anglophone scholars of Spanish sculpture, and, even now, the study of early modern Spanish art is heavily weighted toward painting, despite the actual historical importance of sculpture in Spain. (In the same year, however, the ground-breaking exhibition *The Sacred Made Real*, curated by Xavier Bray and shown in the National Gallery, London, and National Gallery, Washington, introduced audiences in the UK and the US to polychrome sculpture in Spain and brilliantly illustrated its functions, its styles, and the major artists associated with it.)

A lacuna thus remained, especially in anglophone scholarship, of a comprehensive examination of Luisa Roldán's career and works, until the 2021 publication of Cathy Hall-van den Elsen's, *Luisa Roldán*. The author begins with a letter from Roldán to city officials requesting that she be able to marry despite her father's objections; it is thus Roldán's insistence on autonomy, as a woman and as an artist, that sets the stage for this beautifully and accessibly written biography. In the first chapter, the greater intellectual freedom and the possibilities for careers and for learning in Spain are outlined, while the limits that were circumscribed are also addressed. This is important to set out from the beginning, as the misconception that Spain was a wholly repressive place for women is put to rest, while also acknowledging the challenges women artists faced. Roldán had the advantage of being born to a sculptor, Pedro Roldán, who had an active workshop in Seville. But she went well beyond that training, developing her own style and a more refined technical prowess, and finding greater success and renown.

The next chapter gives a clear survey of the religious, political, artistic, and social contexts in which Roldán worked: Seville in particular, but also the larger context of Spain. It is an excellent introduction for anyone new to the subject of early modern Iberian art, even if one wishes there had been more discussion of sculpture and the taste for it in Spain (beyond polychromed sculptures). In the following chapters, Hall-van Elsen outlines Luisa's domestic life and the start of her independent career, with a careful discussion of what documents do and do not provide and what must be extrapolated from other evidence. She then goes through the documented works and possible attributions of works produced within her father's workshop, her collaborative works with her husband, Luis Antonio de los Arcos, in Seville and Cádiz, and their years in Madrid, where Luisa began working in terracotta in addition to wood, was appointed as *escultora de cámara*, and signed sculptures as entirely her own. Her career took off there, and her husband assisted in marketing her work to clients at the court and abroad. Contemporary accounts and her entry into the Roman Accademia de San Luca evidence her renown in her own day. In the final chapter, Hall-van Elsen interrogates Luisa's critical fortune in Spanish art historical texts and especially how she is discussed in them because of her womanhood.

Hall-van Elsen's close study of Luisa's sculptures provides invaluably rich information for further study and a more comprehensive understanding of her oeuvre. (Additionally, the author includes a list of Roldán's works in churches and public collections following the main text, as well as a chronology of Luisa's life and sculptures.)

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Thankfully, the images are of as high quality as the text, which is particularly important since many of them are not well known outside of specialized circles. In sum, as the inaugural volume of the Lund Humphries series, Illuminating Women Artists: Renaissance and Baroque, Hall-van Elsen's study sets a high bar for future works, and serves as a seminal volume not only on this great sculptor but also on the contexts in which she flourished.

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Niederlande und Frankreich: Austausch der Bildkünste im 16. Jahrhundert.
Caecilie Weissert, ed.
Göttingen: Böhlau Verlag, 2020. 144 pp. €32.99.

Though neighbors with common genealogical, political, and cultural roots in Burgundy, the Habsburg rulers of the Netherlands and the Valois rulers of France were at unease through most of the sixteenth century. The two were even demarcated as national entities with a set of characteristics typical for each of them in Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* of 1570. Many inhabitants, however, probably never recognized the division or the characteristics; rather, as the editor states, "merchants, humanists, or artists connected across national borders regardless of political and religious conflicts" (23).

The present book contains an introduction and five chapters that present—with the exception of the chapter written by Hubert Meeus—revised and extended versions of papers from a 2015 workshop at the University of Stuttgart organized by the volume's editor. Following Caecilie Weissert's informative introduction, Meeus's chapter is an informative presentation of the culture of print in Antwerp qua Paris and Lyon. The author outlines how Charles V and Francois I offered privileges to protect the printed literature of their respective dominions yet failed to counter the entrepreneurial spirit of the Antwerp scene—in particular that of Christopher Plantin—that allowed French authors to have their works disseminated beyond linguistic barriers and also avoid religious censorship. Thomas Fusenig discusses the works of Hans Robelar, a virtually unknown Netherlandish painter residing in France. Documentary and visual evidence and comparisons between signed and unsigned works enable the author to attribute a dozen paintings to Robelar, proving that *Duzendware* (uninspired, standardized items) are not to be overlooked when analyzing the exchange of artistic ideas.

Caecilie Weissert analyzes three paintings by Frans Floris in light of the French Renaissance *Pléiade*, demonstrating how the painter gradually developed the *convivium deorum* theme into a form that does "not explain and narrate, but show[s] love and beauty comparable to the French poems" (90). Natasha Peeters explores the career of

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