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Fragmenta 5, Art & Knowledge in Rome & the European Republic of Letters

Thijs Weststeijn

Fragmenta 5: Art and Knowledge in Rome and the Early Modern Republic of Letters, 1500-1750

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Abstract

How were Early Modern artists, from Michelangelo to Piranesi, engaged in the production, diffusion, and reception of knowledge? In this book, sixteen chapters explore painters and architects as agents in a European network of communication that involved texts, images, and material culture. The metaphor of the Republic of Letters illuminates exchanges between the cultural centre of Rome and different European peripheries. The role of the Low Countries stands out, which gave rise to a variety of innovations, from the first studies of the Early Christian Catacombs, to new reproductive techniques for 'paper museums', and seminal interest in Egyptian antiquities.

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