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MARCELLO

ADÈLE D'AFFRY (1836-1879) DUCHESSA DI CASTIGLIONE COLONNA

Edited by Gianna A. Mina

Text by Laure Chabanne, Grégoire Extermann, Pascal Griener, Gianna A. Mina, Édouard Papet, Caterina Y. Pierre, Fabien Python, Francis Python, Simone de Reyff, Caroline Schuster Cordone, and Monique von Wistinghausen and Tatiana Silvestri

This catalogue accompanies the travelling exhibition of the work of the artist Adèle Colonna, Duchess of Castiglione Altibrandi (1836–1879). She was actually born Adèle d'Affry in Switzerland and created her sculptures and paintings under the pseudonym "Marcello." The death of her husband, Carlo di Castiglione Colonna, left the Roman duchess a widow at a young age and free to pursue her career as a sculptress in Paris, where she exhibited her works at the Salon from 1863. She soon established a reputation in Switzerland and Italy, too. In this lavishly illustrated book, the reader will discover the sculptures, paintings, and drawings of Marcello, in which neoclassicism competes with more modern influences. Her works are placed in relation to those by other artists of the age, such as Gustave Courbet, Eugène Delacroix, Berthe Morisot, Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, and Henri Regnault, as well as being correlated with photographs from her archives which shed considerable light on Marcello's oeuvre.

The story of Adèle d'Affry provides an opportunity to study the emergence of women artists in the nineteenth century in general and affords an insight into the subjects they were most fond of and were keenest to depict. This work analyses the art milieu that developed in Rome and Paris around the year 1870, the influence of Spanish art at the time, and the role played by fashionable salons.

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