



22 x 29 cm, 192 pp.
130 colour illustrations
softcover with flaps
German edition
ISBN 978-88-7439-685-6
French edition
ISBN 978-88-7439-681-8
Italian edition
ISBN 978-88-7439-683-2
€35.00
co-published with Museo Vincenzo Vela,
Ligornetto

Exhibition

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Fribourg
from November 6, 2014 to February 22, 2015

Museo Vincenzo Vela, Ligornetto
from March 29 to August 16, 2015

Musées nationaux du Palais de Compiègne
from late October 2015 to late February 2016

Musée des Suisses dans le monde, Penthes
from March 27 to late June 2016

MARCELLO

ADÈLE D'AFFRY (1836-1879) HERZOGIN VON 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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