KNOWING ‘AS MUCH OF ART AS THE CAT’?:
19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS ON THE OLD MASTERS

10 November 2017
Sainsbury Centre Lecture Theatre, National Gallery

Organised by Susanna Avery-Quash (National Gallery, London) and Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck, University of London)

Conference programme

10.00–10.20 Registration

10.20–10.30 Welcome
Dr Susanna Avery-Quash, Senior Research Curator (History of Collecting), National Gallery and Professor Hilary Fraser, Dean of Arts & Geoffrey Tillotson Chair of Nineteenth-Century Studies, Birkbeck, University of London

10.30–11.15 Keynote Address:
Dr Meaghan Clarke (University of Sussex)
The Women that Shaped Art History: Defining the ‘Masterpiece’ in the Nineteenth Century
Chair: Hilary Fraser

11.15–11.45 Refreshment Break (provided)

SESSION ONE
Chair: Susanna Avery-Quash

11.45–12.10 Professor Julie Sheldon (Liverpool John Moores University)
Lady Eastlake’s Collaborative Writing on the Old Masters

12.10–12.35 Dr Lene Østermark-Johansen (University of Copenhagen)
“This will be a popular picture”: Giovanbattista Moroni’s ‘Tailor’ and the Female Gaze
12.35–13.00  Professor Patricia Rubin (New York University)
“The reverence for old masters is not all humbug and superstition”: George Eliot, Lady Eastlake, and the humbug of Old Masters

13.00–13.15  Q&A session

13.15–14.15  Lunch (not provided)

SESSION TWO
Chair: Hilary Fraser

14.15-14.40  Professor Diane Apostolos-Cappadona (Georgetown University, Reiss)
“I can only see with woman’s eyes…“: Mrs Jameson on the Old Masters

14.40-15.05  Dr Zahira Véliz Bomford (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
How Mary Philadelphia Merrifield wrote on the arts: navigating networks in the Victorian age

15.05-15.30  Dr Caroline Palmer (Ashmolean Museum)
“A revolution in art”: Maria Callcott on Poussin, painting and the Primitives

15.30-15.45  Q&A session

15.45-16.15  Refreshment Break (provided)

SESSION THREE
Chair: Dr Stephen Bending (Director, Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies)

16.15-16.40  Professor Patricia Pulham (University of Surrey)
Venus, Madonnas and Renaissance Art: Vernon Lee and the Old Masters

16.40-17.05  Maria Alambritis (Birkbeck, University of London; National Gallery)
“Such a pleasant little sketch…of this irritable artist”: Women art writers and the revival of interest in Mantegna for the British public, 1881-1911

17.05-17.30  Dr Francesco Ventrella (University of Sussex)
Writing Under Pressure: Maud Cruttwell and the Professionalisation of Art History

17.30- 17.45  Q&A session.
Finish & Close of the Conference.