


# Plautilla Nelli

Restoring Her Place as a Florentine Renaissance Painter, Prioress  
and Workshop founder, 500 years on

<b>Event summary</b>	<p>Celebrating the Renaissance Prioress, Painter, and Artist Workshop founder, Plautilla Nelli (1524-88) as the first Florentine woman to achieve prominence as a painter in the 1500s, we will consider her artistic practice and how new conservation research and technologies are helping to rediscover her paintings and to restore her place in art history.</p> 
<b>Date and Time</b>	<p><b>Friday 15th November 2024</b> <b>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</b></p> <p>We do hope you can join us for the whole afternoon, but we understand that students, lecturers, and others may need to come and go depending on pre-existing commitments to lectures etc.</p> <p>Do please come to as much of the afternoon as you can manage and don't worry if you need to arrive after we start or leave before we finish.</p>
<b>EVENT IS FREE &amp; ALL ARE WELCOME</b>	<p><b>NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY</b></p> <p>please note seating is limited to approx. 85 people plus reserved seating for our speakers</p>
<b>TCD Campus Location and Accessibility</b>	<p><a href="#">Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute</a></p> <p><b>EVENT ROOM:</b> <b>Neill Lecture Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub</b></p> <p><b>The venue is accessible via stairs and a lift.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Access to the <b>lift requires a security fob</b> held locally by staff of The Trinity Long Room Hub, therefore, please let us know in advance if you require assistance to enter via the lift, thank you for your understanding of this local venue arrangement</p> <p><b>Please contact:</b> <a href="mailto:trinitylongroomhub@tcd.ie">trinitylongroomhub@tcd.ie</a> specifying this symposium event and date</p>
<b>Event only available in situ</b>	<p>The event will <u>not</u> be live-streamed, but we do hope to audio-record the event on the day if possible, however, this is not guaranteed.</p>

**Event Description**

**Plautilla Nelli (1524-88)  
Restoring Her Place as a Florentine Renaissance Painter, Prioress  
and Workshop founder, 500 years on**

As Florence marks 500 years since her birth, we investigate Plautilla Nelli's artistic practice as the first Florentine woman to achieve prominence as a painter in the 1500s. The wider social and cultural context of the workshop within the convent where she was Prioress will be discussed. We will also delve into how recent research in the fields of conservation and technical art history, are employing new diagnostic technologies to help reclaim her place in art history and to rediscover her and her workshop's paintings.



Plautilla was recognised as an artist during her lifetime, despite the severe restrictions of training and career opportunities afforded to women. She was also the only woman known to have painted a Last Supper during the Renaissance era and was one of only a handful of women included by her contemporary Giorgio Vasari in his seminal writings on the 'Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors and Architects' (second edition, 1568).

This symposium brings together from Ireland, Italy, the USA, and the Netherlands, established experts, and student researchers as next generation professionals in the fields of art history, conservation, and technical art history to discuss the art of Plautilla, her workshop, and how recent scientific diagnostic technologies are helping to 'restore' her artistic standing to contemporary consciousness.

We are keen to welcome as many students as possible to attend, especially as we are building contacts with conservation studios and projects in Italy with the aim of expanding career pathways into the fields of conservation and technical art history.

We look forward to welcoming students, colleagues, and a wider public audience on the afternoon of Friday 15th November 2024 from 2pm – do please spread the word.

<p><b>Symposium context</b></p>	<p><b>Symposium concept and co-organisers:</b></p> <p>Ireland-Italy Projects Jane Adams of Caravaggio &amp; Contemporary / Artemisia Gold and Dr Brenda Moore McCann, Independent Scholar and Adjunct Assistant Professor, TCD</p> <p><b>Co-organised and developed by:</b></p> <p>Catherine Giltrap, Curator and Head of the University Art Collections, TCD and Dr Catherine Lawless, Director of the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies and Lecturer in the History of the Art, TCD</p> <p>We extend a special thank you to the Trinity Long Room Hub for the use of their venue.</p>
<p><b>Programme</b></p> <p><b>2 – 2.10pm</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction by</b></p> <p><b>Catherine Giltrap and Dr Catherine Lawless</b></p>
<p><b>2.10-2.20pm</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p><b>“The Founding of Ireland-Italy Projects”</b></p> <p><b>Dr Brenda Moore McCann and Jane Adams</b></p> <p>An outline of how the idea for Ireland-Italy Projects came about and what it hopes to achieve, plus an overview of activities in Italy connecting conservation and education, and, plans for future projects.</p>
<p><b>2.20-3pm</b></p>	<p><b>"Plautilla Nelli: The Painter and Her Workshop"</b></p> <p><b>Dr Catherine Turrill Lupi</b></p> <p>Professor Emerita, Art Department, California State University, Sacramento Art Historian and specialist scholar of 30 years on Plautilla Nelli’s work</p>
<p><b>3– 3.45pm</b></p>	<p><b>“Restoring in Florence, tradition versus innovation”</b></p> <p><b>Dr Roberta Lapucci</b></p> <p>Head of the Art Conservation Department, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence. Internationally renowned for her conservation research and conservation practice connected to Caravaggio, her recent teaching projects have included a focus on the art of Plautilla Nelli.</p>
<p><b>3.45-4pm</b></p>	<p><b>Short Break</b></p>
<p><b>4pm – 4.20pm</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1 – audience questions</b></p>

4.20-4.40pm	<b>SESSION 2</b>  <b>My Lorenzo de' Medici experience: The Restoration of Plautilla Nelli William Johnson</b> Art restoration and conservation graduate and Teaching Assistant to Dr Roberta Lapucci, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence
4.40-5pm	<b>"Technical Art History and Nelli"</b> <b>Trisha Dalke</b> Currently an MSc student in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the University of Amsterdam specialising in Technical Art History, with a focus on Plautilla Nelli, also a graduate of Dr Roberta Lapucci's programme at the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence
5pm – 5.20pm	<b>Session two – audience questions</b>
5.20-5.45pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium Close</b></p> <b>followed by an opportunity to chat informally with our invited speakers</b>

**SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES** in the order of the programme

**Jane Adams** is co-founder of Artemisia Gold CIC and Caravaggio & Contemporary Ltd with a wealth of experience in PR and Communications in Art and Art Restoration sectors.

Her mission is to rediscover artworks by female artists and through research, restoration, education, and exhibition, to bring the stories of these forgotten artists back to life. She was formerly the director of Partnership Relations with Jane Fortune and Advancing Women Artists Inc., restoring 70 works in 10 years. Jane Adams led her first solo restoration project in 2020, restoring Artemisia's 'Let the Children Come to Me' in Rome's Church of San Carlo Al Corso and this year has supported a diagnostic campaign and publication surrounding Artemisia's 'Mother and Child' at the Spada Gallery in Rome. 2024 being the 500th Birthday anniversary of Suor Plautilla Nelli has seen the restoration of two newly discovered paintings and various celebratory events at the Museum of San Marco, Santa Maria Novella and Palazzo Corsini.

<https://artemisiagold.org/>

<https://www.caravaggioandcontemporary.com/>

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**Dr Brenda Moore-McCann** is a medical doctor, art historian and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin. She was awarded a Ph.D. in art history in 2002. She has published widely and is the author of a trilogy of books on the artist and critic Brian O'Doherty (a.k.a. Patrick Ireland). The latest, 'La Casa Dipinta / The Painted House', was published in Italian and English in 2023 on an unique artist museum in Todi, Italy. Living between Ireland and Italy, she is the co-founder with Jane Adams of Ireland-Italy Projects.

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[brendamooremccann@gmail.com](mailto:brendamooremccann@gmail.com)

**Dr Catherine Turrill Lupi** is an Italian Renaissance art historian who has been studying the life and art of Plautilla Nelli for 30 years. Among other publications, she has written essays for the first two books in English about Nelli (2000 and 2008) and contributed both an essay and several entries to the catalogue for the artist's solo exhibition at the Uffizi Galleries in 2017. She has also spoken about Nelli and her workshop at conferences and symposia in the USA and abroad. She was a full-time faculty member at California State University, Sacramento from 1995-2016, serving as Art Department Chair for several years.

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**Dr Roberta Lapucci** is a renowned Italian scholar and conservation expert who has catalogued and restored numerous works of art belonging to Florentine museums and churches and is the author of 'Caravaggio and Optics' (2005). Dr Lapucci has been teaching in the field of Conservation, Artistic Techniques and Diagnostics for a number of decades and is currently Head of the Art Conservation Department at the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence. She also co-directed the Caravaggio exhibitions held at the Palazzo Pitti in Florence and the Palazzo Ruspoli in Rome, and established an archive of technical documentation and photographs of Caravaggio's masterpieces at the Roberto Longhi Foundation in Florence. Some of her recent research proposes the use of a proto-photographic system for the execution of Caravaggio's artworks using photosensitive and photo luminescent materials. Her recent educational teaching projects have included the work of Plautilla Nelli at the Istituto de' Lorenzo de Medici, Florence, and she has worked on independent projects as Director of Arts and Culture for 'Caravaggio and Contemporary' with Jane Adams.

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**William Johnson** received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramics from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2020. In May of 2024 he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Art Restoration and Conservation Studies from the Marist College of Italy in combination with the Lorenzo de Medici Institute in Florence, working on the restoration of a Plautilla Nelli panel as part of his thesis project. Since graduation, he has been working as a Teaching Assistant in the conservation department of the Lorenzo de Medici Institute.

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**Trisha Dalke** is an MSc student in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the University of Amsterdam, specialising in Technical Art History. Originally from Canada, she holds a BA (Hons) in Art History and Visual Studies with a minor in Museum Studies from the University of Victoria, as well as a Professional Specialisation Certificate in Collections Management. Trisha obtained a Professional Certificate in Art Conservation and Restoration at Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence studying under Dr Roberta Lapucci. Currently, she collaborates with Jane Adams at Artemesia Gold on the technical analyses of Plautilla Nelli's paintings, the focus of her MSc thesis.

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**For any further queries regarding the symposium, please contact:**

Catherine Giltrap, Curator and Head of the University Art Collections, Trinity College Dublin

[Catherine.giltrap@tcd.ie](mailto:Catherine.giltrap@tcd.ie)     [www.tcd.ie/artcollections](http://www.tcd.ie/artcollections)

Instagram @tcdartcollections #tcdartcollections #plautillanelli

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