

SUMMARY

Portrait of Eleonora di Toledo in the collection of National Gallery in Prague

The main theme of my thesis is the study of one of the finest renaissance paintings in the collection of The National Gallery in Prague – Bronzino's Portrait of Eleonora di Toledo.

Beside the main theme, the thesis also focuses on painting's context such as family relationship in which Eleonora had lived including a brief outline of general conditions in Florence around 1550. The thesis is set together on basis of secondary literature, which is noticed in the quotes.

There is not a lot of information remained about Eleonora's own life, however we are able to develop a concrete idea about her personal life – a young lady from a distinguished Spanish family married the Duke of the one of the most significant Italian city states – Florence. She became a wife of Cosimo di Medici, she was a fine woman and a careful mother, but also a lovely lady as shown in the portrait.

When Agnolo Bronzino came up to produce Eleonora's portrait, he had been already treated as an accounted and acclaimed artist. Also Giorgio Vasari depicted his talent with honourable mention in his works. Particularly in Florence, he started his career of successful Medici portrait painter. As a turning point of his works, it is considered his painting of Cosimo as Orpheus. Among other works, Bronzino was also entrusted with the decoration of Eleonora's Chappel. On the celebrated portrait of Eleonora, she is shown in her 24 years as a lovely lady wearing spectacular dress, whose gesture symbolises marital fidelity. The displayed dress has become also important source-book for research in the field of clothing history.

Keywords:

Eleonora di Toledo

Bronzino

Florence

Medici

The National Gallery in Prague