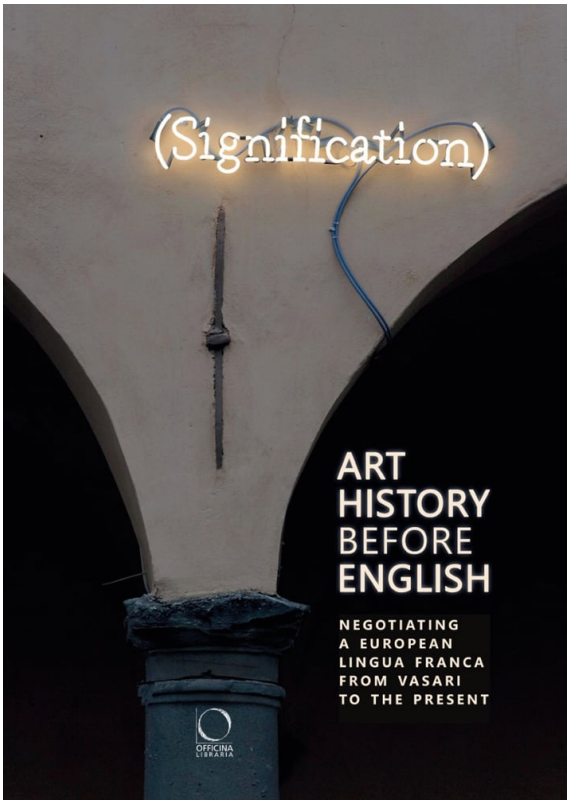
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Art History Before English

Negotiating a European Lingua Franca from Vasari to the Present

Edited by Robert Brennan

Edited by C Oliver O'Donnel

Edited by Marco Mascolo

Edited by Alessando Nova

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- An important reflection on the status of the discipline of Art history in a changing, globalised world where English has become the lingua franca

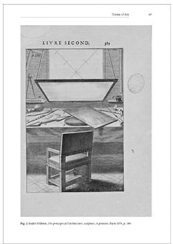
This book addresses a phenomenon that pervades the field of art history: the fact that English has become a widely adopted language. Art history employs language in a very particular way, one of its most basic aims being the verbal reconstruction of the visual past. The book seeks to shed light on the particular issues that English's rise to prominence poses for art history by investigating the history of the discipline itself: specifically, the extent to which the European tradition of art historical writing has always been shaped by the presence of dominant languages on the continent.

What artistic, intellectual, and historical dynamics drove the pattern of linguistic ascendance and diffusion in the art historical writing of past centuries? How have the immediate, practical ends of writing in a common language had unintended, long-term consequences for the discipline? Were art historical concepts transformed or left behind with the onset of a new lingua franca, or did they often remain intact beneath a shifting veneer of new words?

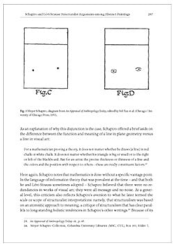
Includes 10 essays in English, four in Italian, and one in German.

Text in English, German and Italian.

Robert Brennan is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Sydney. His first book, *Painting as a Modern Art in Early Renaissance Italy*, was published by Harvey Miller in 2019. **Marco M. Mascolo** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa. In 2017 he published a book on the German-American connoisseur Wilhelm R. Valentiner (1880-1958). **Alessandro Nova** is director of the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut. His research focuses primarily on early modern Italian art. **C. Oliver O'Donnell** is a Research Associate at the Warburg Institute, University of London. His publications include *Meyer Schapiro's Critical Debates: Art through a Modern American Mind* (Penn State University Press, 2019)







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