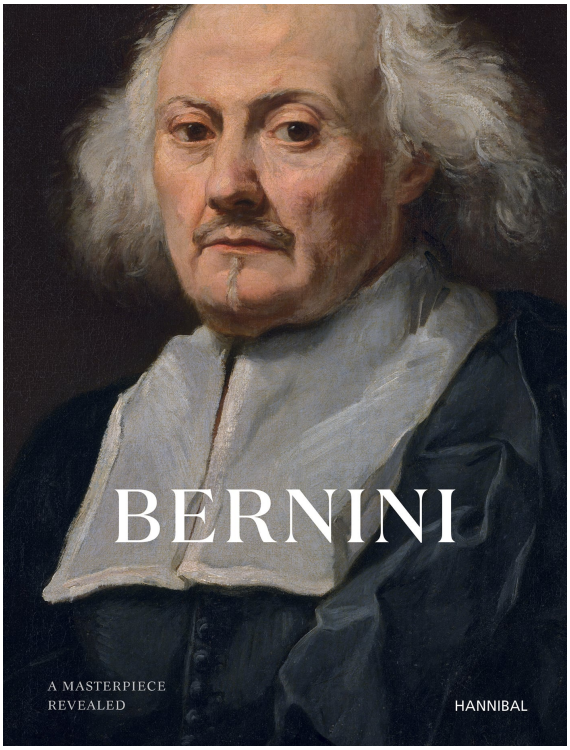
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Bernini

Painter and Sculptor

Edited by Gudrun Swoboda

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- A rare artistic discovery: striking, previously anonymous portrait is now attributed to Baroque master Gian Lorenzo Bernini
- Scarce autograph work: fewer than twenty Bernini paintings survive, making this attribution extraordinary
- Published to accompany the exhibition *Bernini – Painter and Sculptor*, on view from 2 December 2026 to 4 April 2027, at the Kunsthistorisches Museum at the Palais Lobkowitz, Vienna
- Exhibition page: https://www.khm.at/en/exhibitions/bernini-painter-and-sculptor

Long considered anonymous, a striking portrait of an old man in the Kunsthistorisches Museum is now attributed to the Baroque genius Gian Lorenzo Bernini, a rare and remarkable discovery. Almost life-size, the bust grips viewers with its piercing gaze and palpable presence. Bernini, famed creator of *Apollo and Daphne* and architect of St. Peter's Square, is known to have painted only for his own pleasure, and fewer than twenty works survive as autograph paintings. This book traces the thrilling investigation behind the attribution and reveals how Bernini infused paint with sculptural force, redefining the boundaries between painting and sculpture.

Gudrun Swoboda, MA, PhD, studied Art History and Ethnology at the University of Vienna and collaborated on the reconstruction of Aby Warburg's Mnemosyne Atlas. A specialist in Old Master drawings, she has served as curator at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien since 2009, organizing major international exhibitions. She has held fellowships in Florence, Rome, and Los Angeles and lectures in Vienna and Bern.

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