



Adam Elsheimer: Die Flucht nach Ägypten (Alte Pinakothek)



Wednesday Oct. 17
h. 15:00 – 16.00
Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà
Aula Valent

Adam Elsheimer's *The Flight into Egypt* (1609) has triggered a longstanding debate among art historians. For five decades, the novel naturalistic representation of the night sky in Elsheimer's painting has been linked to Galileo's telescopic observations. To explain the astronomical details of this painting, scholars have contended that Elsheimer observed, *before Galileo*, the night sky with one of the first telescopes available in Rome at the time. However, so far the debate has been lacking a rigorous input from the history of astronomy. The talk contextualizes the analysis of the artwork within the prevailing astronomical knowledge of its time - before the edition of Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius* - and frames it within the network of, and debates among, prominent figures of Galileo's and Elsheimer's time. Through the analysis of the scientific and cultural practices of discerning the night sky in 1600, it proposes a revisionist account of Elsheimer's most famous artwork.

Guest hosted by the ERC endeavor
EarlyModernCosmology
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Workshop ERC
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Interpreting Art through the History of Science. Adam Elsheimer and the Renaissance Night Sky

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Introduction by
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