



Life of Tintoretto, and of His Children Domenico and Marietta

By Carlo Ridolfi

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Carlo Ridolfi's biography of Tintoretto is the single most important primary source on the life and works of the famous Venetian painter. Originally printed separate in 1642, it was later included, with minor modifications, in Ridolfi and Catherine Enggass's many translations include the Malvasia Life of Guido Remi, the Baldinucci Life of Bernini, the Manetti Life of Brunelleschi, and several volumes of the Corpus Palladianum. She is also co-editor of the Vatican Library edition of Pio Äôs Lives. Robert Enggass, Callaway Professor at the University of Georgia, is the author of The Painting of Baciccio; Early 18th-Century Sculpture in Rome (which won the Borghese Prize in 1977); and, with Jonathan Brown, Italy and Spain, 1600-1750, as well as many articles in art history journals.s two-volume Lives of the Venetian Painters. Combining an account of the artist s life with discussions of his major works, Ridolfi provides fascinating details about the [painter's working methods and the strategy he employed in securing many of his most important commissions. Ridolfi describes the paintings with precision and analyzes accurately the unusual and recondite themes within them, but his major contribution is the image he gives us of Tintoretto as an artist obsessed with the act of painting, an aggressive competitor whose goal was not wealth, but fame.This volume also contains Ridolfi's biographical sketches of two of Tintoretto's children: Domenico, who worked with his father for many years and played an important role in the completion of his later works, and Marietta, the favorite child whose considerable artistic promise was left unfulfilled by her early death. Ridolfi's account of Marietta includes a spirited defense of the talents and abilities of women, as well as an attack on those who would place restrictions on them - features that must surely have startled his seventeenth-century readers but are sure to please his twentieth-century audience.

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Life of Tintoretto, and of His Children Domenico and Marietta By Carlo Ridolfi Bibliography

- Rank: #4018863 in Books
- Published on: 1984-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .28" w x 5.50" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 103 pages



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Language Notes

Text: English, Italian

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