



Lives of Giovanni Bellini

Giorgio Vasari
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Isabella d'Este
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ISBN	9781843681496
Publisher	Pallas Athene
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World
Size	145 mm x 114 mm
Pages	160 Pages
Illustrations	47 color
Name of series	Lives of the Artists
Price	£9.99

- Contemporary assessments of the life and art of Bellini, including his wayward correspondence with the great Duchess of Ferrara

Scion of an artistic dynasty, Giovanni Bellini is arguably the greatest Venetian painter of the early Renaissance. His astonishing naturalism revolutionised altarpiece painting and is still a source of wonder, as any visit to Frari in Venice will confirm. Most of what we know about this great artist comes from the earliest biographies by Vasari and Ridolfi printed here – the Ridolfi never before translated into English. A different and very personal insight is given by extensive correspondence with Bellini’s great but neglected patron Isabella d’Este.

