

Golden Age Representations of Urban Spanish Women in the Works of Francisco

Delicado and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

Recovering images of women who lived in the XVI and XVII centuries is a daunting task for contemporary scholars given the lack of representation of these characters in novels and paintings. This effort is even more challenging when the women we seek to investigate are considered social minorities due to their economic class, race, religion or a combination of these factors. However, despite the difficulties that such academic investigations may entail, an understanding of Golden Age women and their contributions to Hispanic culture cannot be adequately attained without considering the diverse, and often overlooked, feminine figures that comprise this social panorama.

In an effort to perceive the reality of popular sectors in which Golden Age women lived and worked, the present investigation analyzes *La lozana andaluza*, written by Francisco Delicado (1528), and a survey of feminine images in Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's *The Flower Girl*, *Four Figures on a Step*, and *Girls Selling Fruit*. These artists' works not only sharply contrast with the abundant images of noble women of the same time period, but are also an invaluable resource for rescuing data concerning the neglected image of lower sector women who defended themselves outside of the walls of domesticity. Through a comparative study of Murillo's paintings and Delicado's novel, a critical dialogue between the visual and literary representations of urban Spanish women's lifestyles can be established.

Proposal 2010

Collections and Recollections:

Cultural Accumulation and Dissemination in the Early Modern Hispanic World

2010 EMIT Society Proposal:

Golden Age Representations of Urban Spanish Women in the Works of Francisco Delicado and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

Dr. Carmen L. King

Arizona State University
411 N. Central Ave.
Suite 360M
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Carmen.king@asu.edu
602-496-0651

Proposal 2010

Collections and Recollections:

Cultural Accumulation and Dissemination in the Early Modern Hispanic World