Madame, Elizabeth Charlotte of the Palatinate, Duchess of Orléans, in Hunting Dress by Louis-Ferdinand Elle, 1673
Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

Visual Manipulation and Auto/Biography

Barbara Gaehtgens
1643 or How to Represent the Queen’s New Power?

Mark De Vitis
Madame as the Marquise: The Politics of Making a Mockery at the Court of Louis XIV

This seminar will combine the work of two art historians researching the visual self-representation of royal woman at the French court during the seventeenth century.

Dr Gaehtgens (an independent scholar based at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles) explores how Anne of Austria used multiplied images as visual propaganda to change her image from a widowed queen to a self-assured regent. In turn, Dr De Vitis (National Art School) considers the theatrical performances of Elizabeth Charlotte as substantive acts of socio-political critique, calculated and incisive.

Discussion will focus on how the visual—in prints and performance—can be conceived as a form of writing biography.

For further information about the Sydney Intellectual History Network (SIHN @ Sydney) and to join our mailing list, please visit http://sydney.edu.au/intellectual-history