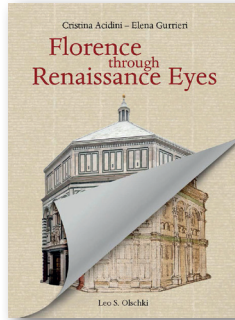


CRISTINA ACIDINI - ELENA GURRIERI

FLORENCE THROUGH RENAISSANCE EYES  
A WALK WITH THE AUTHOR OF THE CODEX RUSTICI  
(1450)

TRANSLATED BY SARAH CUMINETTI AND KYLE WOHLMUT

This book is the ideal companion to discover the ancient heart of Florence through the eyes of an exceptional witness: Marco di Bartolomeo Rustici (1392/93-1457), goldsmith and humanist, author of an extraordinary Codex that takes his name. In the Codex, Rustici describes and depicts religious and secular elements of the historic center of Florence around 1450. At the time, the city's medieval urban fabric was being enriched with grandiose Renaissance monuments designed by Filippo Brunelleschi and other famous architects and commissioned by the institutions in power. Rustici's uni-



que and personal journey will take you to the great Christian temples, such as the Baptistery and the Duomo, but also to the ancient and smaller churches that disappeared with urban renewal projects in the city of the 19th century. Rustici's accurate watercolor drawings are shown here alongside their contemporary correspondents in today's Florence. It is an

astonishing sequence of similarities and differences that encapsulate the most intimate identity of Florence: a city that holds on tenaciously to its own memory, one that keeps changing while remaining true to itself.

*In questo libro, si riscopre il cuore antico di Firenze grazie a un testimone speciale: l'orafa Marco Rustici (1392/3-1457), autore di uno straordinario Codice, in cui è protagonista la città com'era attorno al 1450. I suoi disegni acquerellati sono qui messi a confronto con le grandi chiese esistenti, ma anche coi luoghi e i resti delle altre chiese e chiesette scomparse. La stupefacente sequenza di somiglianze e differenze racchiude l'identità profonda di Firenze: una città ricca di memoria, capace di cambiare restando se stessa.*

CRISTINA ACIDINI is an art historian. Born in Florence, she worked at the Ministry of Culture from 1981 to 2014. She directed the Opificio delle Pietre Dure and was Soprintendente of the Polo Museale Fiorentino when it included 27 state museums, including the Gallerie dell'Accademia and the Uffizi. She coordinated the ministerial group that drew up the standard guidelines for Italian museums. She is the author of books and essays devoted to Florentine Renaissance art. Since 2015 she has been president of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno in Florence.

ELENA GURRIERI was born in Arezzo and lives in Florence, where she has been in charge of the Library of the Seminario Arcivescovile Maggiore since 1997. She coordinated the project for the creation of the facsimile of the *Codex Rustici* including the critical commentary (Olschki, 2015). She has a background in Twentieth Century Italian Studies, a subject on which she has published various monographs and numerous critical essays over her nearly forty-year career.

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