

**SIRANI, Elisabetta**

Bologna 1638–1665

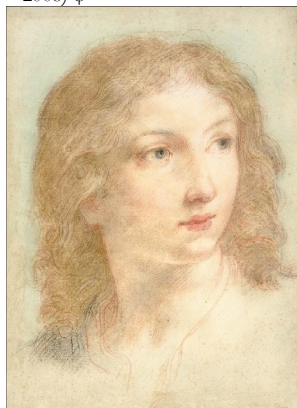
Bologna's most famous woman artist, Elisabetta, daughter of Giovanni Andrea Sirani (*q.v.*), was not only renowned as a talented painter but was also intellectually accomplished, socially well connected and physically beautiful. Her death – poisoned by her maid at a tragically young age – inevitably added to her celebrity. She is said to have produced chalk and pastel studies in the manner of Reni, her father's master, but descriptions in pre-1800 inventories are unreliable. Modern examples appear to be chalk drawings with occasional touches of pastel.

**Bibliography**

Bénézit; Bohn 2002, pp. 52–79; Babette Bohn, “Elisabetta Sirani and drawing practices in early modern Bologna”, *Master drawings*, XLII/3, 2004, pp. 207–36; Bowron 1980; Meder 1923, p. 137; Modesti 2001; Washington 2007

**Pastels**

- J.68.101 Testa d'un giovine (Lorenzo Zacconi; inv. p.m., 22.II.1677)
- J.68.102 Head of a youth, red, black, brown, blue chlk, 32x23.5, inscr. Sirani (Mia N. Wiener 2008) φ



- J.68.104 Testa di donna, pstl (Conte Girolamo Ranuzzi, Bologna, inv. 13.III.1788)
- J.68.105 Testa, pstl, al naturale, Florence 1737 (Gabburri)
- J.68.106 Testa, pstl (Annibale Ranuzzi, Bologna, inv. 19.IV.1698)

**Anon. related pastels**

- Beatrice CENCI (1577–1599), pnt. (Rome, Palazzo Barberini). *Olim* attr. Guido Reni
- J.68.109 ~cop., pstl, 38x29, s illegibly “?Ismene Duroiy ...Reni” (Pfarrkirchen, Reibnitz, 11.XI.2011, Lot 117 repr., est. €200) φκ



~cop., pstl, Giordano; J. Lisienska, qq.v.