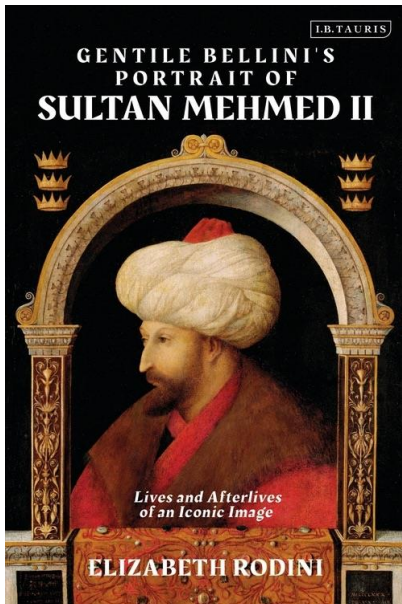




FRIENDS of the AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE in TURKEY



BOOK TALK on Zoom, moderated by Zeynep Simavi  
on  
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Istanbul time.

**Dr. Elizabeth Rodini**

***Gentile Bellini's Portrait  
of Sultan Mehmed II:  
Lives and Afterlives of an Iconic Image***

In 1479, the Venetian painter Gentile Bellini arrived at the Ottoman court in Istanbul, where he produced his celebrated portrait of Sultan Mehmed II. An important moment of cultural diplomacy, this was the first of many intriguing episodes in the picture's history.

Elizabeth Rodini traces Gentile's portrait from Mehmed's court to the Venetian lagoon, from the railway stations of war-torn Europe to the walls of London's National Gallery, exploring its life as a painting and its afterlife as a famous, often puzzling image.

Rediscovered by the archaeologist Austen Henry Layard at the height of Orientalist outlooks in Britain, the picture was also the subject of a lawsuit over what defines a "portrait"; it was claimed by Italians seeking to hold onto national patrimony around 1900; and it starred in a solo exhibition in Istanbul in 1999. Rodini's focused inquiry also ranges broadly, considering the nature of historical evidence, the shifting status of authenticity and verisimilitude, and the contemporary political resonance of Old Master paintings.

Told as an object biography and imagined as an exploration of art historical methodologies, this book situates Gentile's portrait in evolving dialogues between the East and West, uncovering the many and varied ways that objects construct meaning.

**Elizabeth Rodini** is the Andrew Heiskell Arts Director at the American Academy in Rome. Previously she founded the Program in Museums and Society at Johns Hopkins University, where she was Teaching Professor in the History of Art.

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**Register in advance for this meeting:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvdeCqrDwrGtQl0pguK1\\_RVJkMsKKOIVJx](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvdeCqrDwrGtQl0pguK1_RVJkMsKKOIVJx)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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**The book is available on :**

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/gentile-bellinis-portrait-of-sultan-mehmed-ii-9781838604813/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Gentile-Bellinis-Portrait-Sultan-Mehmed/dp/0755616618>

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/gentile-bellinis-portrait-of-sultan-mehmed-ii/>