

# Table of Contents

Foreword, <i>Gianfranco Ravasi</i>	9
Preface, <i>David Trobisch</i>	10
Acknowledgements	11
Introduction, <i>Corinna Ricasoli</i>	13
The Book of Ecclesiastes, <i>Luca Mazzinghi</i>	19
Reading Ecclesiastes in the Early Modern Era, <i>Eric S. Christianson</i>	31
“Omnia Vanitas”: Art, Illusion, and Truth, <i>Timothy Verdon</i>	45
SECTION I – HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF	
The Cyclical Nature of Time and The Worthlessness and Transience of Human Endeavors	63
Cat. n. I.1, Bernardo Bellotto, <i>Capriccio with the Capitoline Hill</i>	64
Cat. n. I.2, Niccolò Codazzi, <i>The Campo Vaccino Looking toward the Capitoline Hill</i>	66
Cat. n. I.3, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Veduta di Campo Vaccino</i>	68
Cat. n. I.4, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Veduta di Campo Vaccino</i>	72
Cat. n. I.5, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Veduta del Tempio di Giove Tonante</i>	76
Cat. n. I.6, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Arco di Settimio Severo</i>	78
Cat. n. I.7, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Veduta del Tempio di Antonino e Faustina in Campo Vaccino</i>	80
Cat. n. I.8, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, <i>Veduta degli avanzi del Tempio della Pace</i>	82
Cat. n. I.9, Hubert Robert, <i>Capriccio of Ancient Ruins</i>	84
Cat. n. I.10, Hendrik Frans van Lint, <i>The Colosseum at Rome</i>	86
SECTION II – THE MYSTERY OF EXISTENCE	
The Limitations of Knowledge	91
Cat. n. II.1, Anonymous (Jacques Bizet?), <i>Still-Life with Old Books</i>	92
Cat. n. II.2, Jan Davidsz de Heem, <i>Still-Life with Books and a Globe</i>	94
Cat. n. II.3, Simon Luttichuijs, <i>Still-Life with a Skull</i>	98
Social Injustices	103
Cat. n. II.4, Anonymous (Dirck van Baburen? Jusepe de Ribera?), <i>Beggar</i>	104
Cat. n. II.5*, Giacomo Ceruti called Il Pitocchetto, <i>Errand Boy Seated with a Basket on His Back, Eggs, and Poultry</i>	108
The Futility of Wealth	113
Cat. n. II.6, Pieter Boel, <i>Allegory of Wordly Vanities</i>	114
Cat. n. II.7, Gerrit van Honthorst, <i>Old Woman Examining a Coin by a Lantern (Sight or Avarice)</i>	118

### SECTION III – NOTHING LASTS

The Unpredictability of One's Fate	125
Cat. n. III.1, Anonymous Italian, <i>Model of a Winged Skull</i>	126
Cat. n. III.2, Pietro Bellotti, <i>The Fate Atropos</i>	128
Cat. n. III.3, Giovanni Martinelli, <i>Youth Surprised by Death</i>	132
The Transience of Things	137
Cat. n. III.4, Edwaert Collier, <i>Vanitas Still-Life with a Skull, Musical Instruments, a Globe, Books, and Writing Paraphernalia</i>	138
Cat. n. III.5, Giovanna Garzoni, <i>Still-Life with Melon and Grapes</i>	140
Cat. n. III.6, Johannes Hannot, <i>Still-Life with a Lobster</i>	142
The Transience of Youth and Beauty	147
Cat. n. III.7, Agostino dei Musi?, <i>Mortalia Facta Peribunt</i>	148
Cat. n. III.8*, Pompeo Batoni, <i>Time Orders Old Age to Destroy Beauty</i>	150
Cat. n. III.9, Attributed to Daniel Preisler, <i>Memento Mori</i>	154
The Inevitability of Death	159
Cat. n. III.10, Bartholomaeus Bruyn the Elder, <i>Portrait of a Man (recto), Skull in a Niche (verso)</i>	160
Cat. n. III.11, Egbert van Panderen, <i>Mors ultima linea rerum</i>	164
Cat. n. III.12, Johann Wolfgang von der Auwera, <i>Allegory of Time</i>	168
The Fragility of Life	173
Cat. n. III.13*, Salvator Rosa, <i>Humana Fragilitas</i>	174

### SECTION IV – ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS

The Earthly Pleasures of Life	181
Cat. n. IV.1, Anonymous painter after Bartolomeo Manfredi, <i>The Card Players</i>	182
Cat. n. IV.2, Gregorius Oosterlinck, <i>A Merry Company (The Five Senses)</i>	186
Cat. n. IV.3, Hendrick ter Brugghen, <i>The Singing Lute Player</i>	190
Cat. n. IV.4, Gerrit van Honthorst, <i>Concert</i>	192
Cat. n. IV.5*, Gerrit van Honthorst, <i>Woman Playing a Lute</i>	196
The Deceptiveness of Earthly Pleasures	201
Cat. n. IV.6, Jan Fris, <i>A Still-Life with a Stoneware Jug, a Glass of Beer, Playing Cards, and Smokers' Requisites</i>	202
Cat. n. IV.7, N. Le Peschier, <i>Vanitas Still-Life</i>	204
Cat. n. IV.8, Jean-Baptiste Oudry, <i>Allegory of the Arts</i>	208
Cat. n. IV.9, Adriaen van Nieulandt, <i>Vanitas Still-Life</i>	210

Index of Names	213
----------------	-----

Bibliography	217
--------------	-----