



February 2025

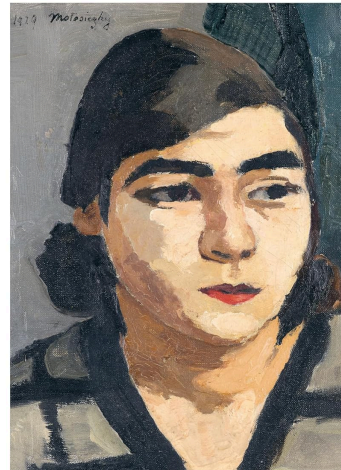
The Lost Artists of Vienna

As a writer of historical fiction, I devote a significant part of my writing life to research. When I stumble across something that opens up unexpected possibilities for my story, I get *very excited*.

The main character in my novel-in-progress, *Paint the Wind*, is a young Viennese woman who transforms herself from an artist's model and muse to an artist in her own right. I recently discovered the catalog for a 2019 exhibition at the Belvedere Museum of women artists in Vienna between 1900-1938, women whose vibrant and prolific art had disappeared, forgotten in the upheaval of war and the dismissal of women's talents.

The insights I gained from reading about these women and the visual impact of their art inspired me and enriched the story. My character, Maya Sircos, is fictional, but her struggles and triumphs reflect the challenges faced by the lost artists of Vienna.

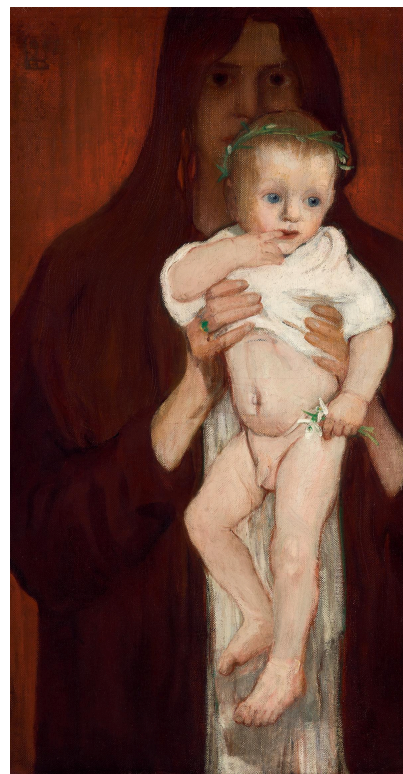
Stadt der Frauen



Female Artists in Vienna
1900-1938

Künstlerinnen in Wien
1900-1938

Catalog cover for the Belvedere Museum
Exhibition, "Stadt der Frauen (City of
Women)"



Elena Luksch-Makowsky, Ver Sacrum. Self-Portrait with Son Peter, 1901

The Origin of a Book Title

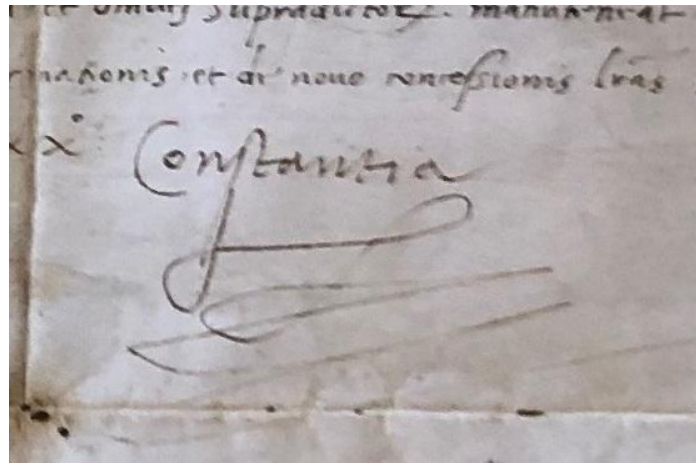
Several years ago, I received a book of Rainer Marie Rilke's poetry as a birthday gift. The poems are prayers that reflect a deeply spiritual exploration of his relationship with God. The following excerpt became the seed for the title of my new novel, *Paint the Wind*.

I would have painted you; not on the wall
But in one broad sweep across heaven.
I'd have portrayed you brashly:

As mountain, as fire, as a wind
howling from the desert's vastness.

Rilke's Book of Hours
Rainer Marie Rilke

Who Was Costanza D'Avalos?



Excerpt of diplomatic letter written by Costanza D'Avalos

Courageous and astute political leader

thrust into power
after the death of her husband and
the murder of her father

Protector of her island of Ischia,
who took up arms to defend against
an invasion by the French

Passionate cultural force,
who established a dazzling court
welcoming artists, poets, and musicians

Nurturing and wise mentor
to the poet Vittoria Colonna

Extraordinary woman
at the forefront of the intellectual revolution
that was the Italian Renaissance

Speculated to be the model for Da Vinci's
Mona Lisa

Come and Learn More About Her at My Next Event!

March 12, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Linda Cardillo



A THING MIRACULOUS

Leonardo da Vinci and Costanza D'Avalos

Author Talk
Longmeadow Adult Center
211 Maple Road
Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Contact me

if you would like me to visit with your book group.

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