

In the footsteps of Momus: irony and *vituperio* in early modern art criticism (abstract)

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My research project at the Italian Academy focuses on the rise of wit and irony in *Kunstliteratur* (16th - 17th centuries). During the seminar I will discuss an unknown paragraph from within the broad polemic which was generated by the unveiling of Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* in the Sistine Chapel. This new data has been surprisingly misunderstood, so far, because it is "hidden" in a letter full of puns and jokes. Untangling these puns makes it possible to have a new source for gaining a glimpse of what Vasari thought of Michelangelo's fresco well before the publication of the first edition of *The Lives*.