

Lavinia Fontana

August, 1552 - August, 1614



Five Fun Facts

- 1) Fontana was the **FIRST** female professional artist in Italy.
- 2) She married a painter, and they had **ELEVEN** children together.
- 3) Her first clients were wealthy noblewomen who wanted portraits, often with their lap dogs. Fontana was known for her detailed depictions of the lavish jewelry and clothing worn by the women.
- 4) As her fame grew, she was recruited to create art for the Catholic Church, and eventually the King of Spain.
- 5) She ended her life in Rome, where she was inducted into the Academy of St. Luke for painters, which up to that point had only included men.

Legacy

Lavinia Fontana is known for paving the way for other female artists to gain recognition. No other female artist up to that point had gained the fame or wealth that Lavinia acquired through her art. She is also known for her advancement of portraiture, as her work largely focused on portraits. She painted in the style of Mannerism, which gained notoriety in the early 1500s, and emphasized proportion, balance, and beauty. She is also praised for the naturalism in her paintings, depicting the way we see things, rather than how we imagine them to be.

Self-Portrait at the Clavichord with a Servant, 1577



Portrait of a Noblewoman, 1580

