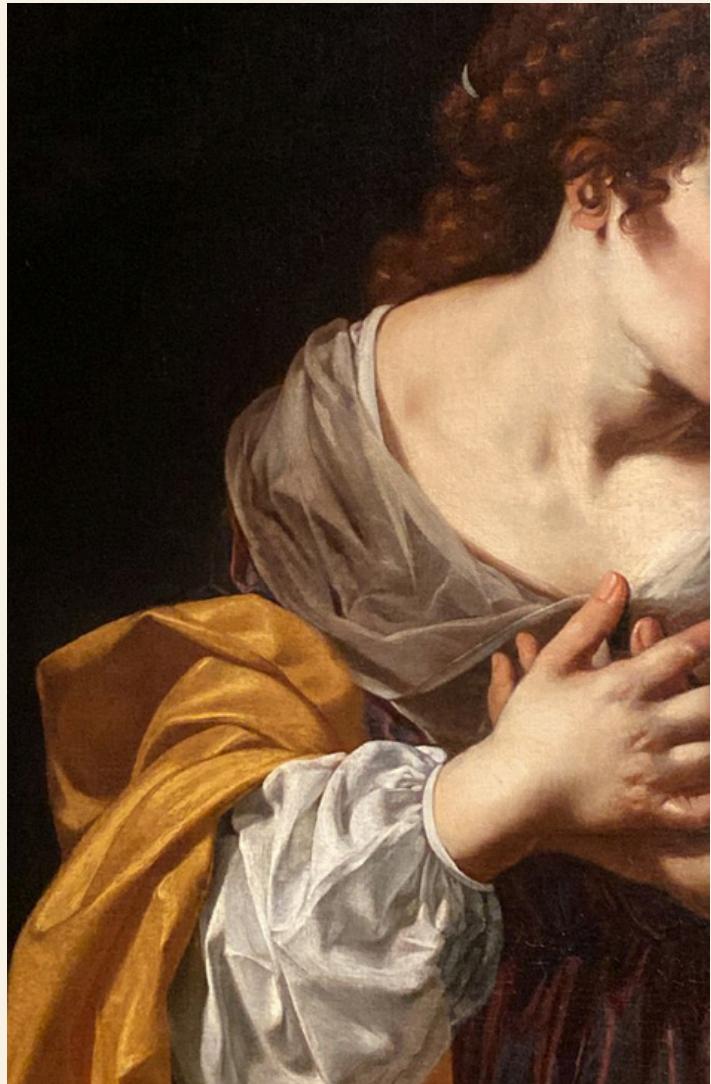


ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI: *Behind the Painting*

Artemesia Gentileschi was born into an artistic Italian family in 1593 (portrait of her shown in the top right). She was a pioneering artist of Italy's Baroque movement as well as the first woman to be accepted into Accademia del Disegno in Florence. Although this was a great achievement, she was still not granted the same rights or respect as her male counterparts. After her mother's death in 1605, Artemisia began taking more



*Left: Judith Slaying Holofernes by Artemisia Gentileschi
Above: A Portrait of Artemisia Gentileschi by Simon Vouet*

artistic lessons from her father, Orazio Gentileschi. Six years later, when Artemisia was 18 years old, she was raped by a family friend and artist, Agostino Tassi.

During the trial, Artemisia was continuously accused of lying, had to undergo a public gynecological inspection, and was physically tortured. Despite having all evidence point to her being truthful, including a witness, Agostino Tassi was deemed innocent and walked free.



One year later, 1612, Artemisia painted her most influential and popular work, "Judith Slaying Holofernes" (shown to the bottom right). Although the painting depicts a biblical story, many art scholars have noticed the similarities between Artemisia and Agostino and Judith and Holofernes. It is believed that Artemisia painted herself as the woman decapitating the man and the man as Agostino, her rapist.

The painting exhibits both technical skill when it comes to photo realism, perspective, and the use of color, as well as emotional power through the chilling faces of all their subjects. Today, Artemisia Gentileschi's paintings are a testament to how justice will be served, in one way or another, if you wrong a determined woman. Her paintings continue to be celebrated for their message of female resilliance and power.

