Session III and IV: Italian Caricatura: Material Practice, Collectors, and Art Theory

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Session Abstract: Italian Caricatura: Material Practice, Collectors, and Art Theory
Drawing from recent research on socio-cultural aspects of collecting early modern drawings in Europe (Warwick, Feigenbaum), this session aims to focus on the heretofore unexplored material practices associated with the production and collection of the most ephemeral type of drawings: ritratti carichi and caricature. The key issues to explore include: the performative ways of producing and assembling caricature, the identity and social networks of the individual collectors (Lelio Orsini, Cesare Malvasia, Filippo Baldinucci, Padre Resta), the status of caricature vs disegno in major collections of drawings; the relationship between collecting caricature and the rise of theoretical reflection on art, as expounded by the writings of Malvasia and Baldinucci.