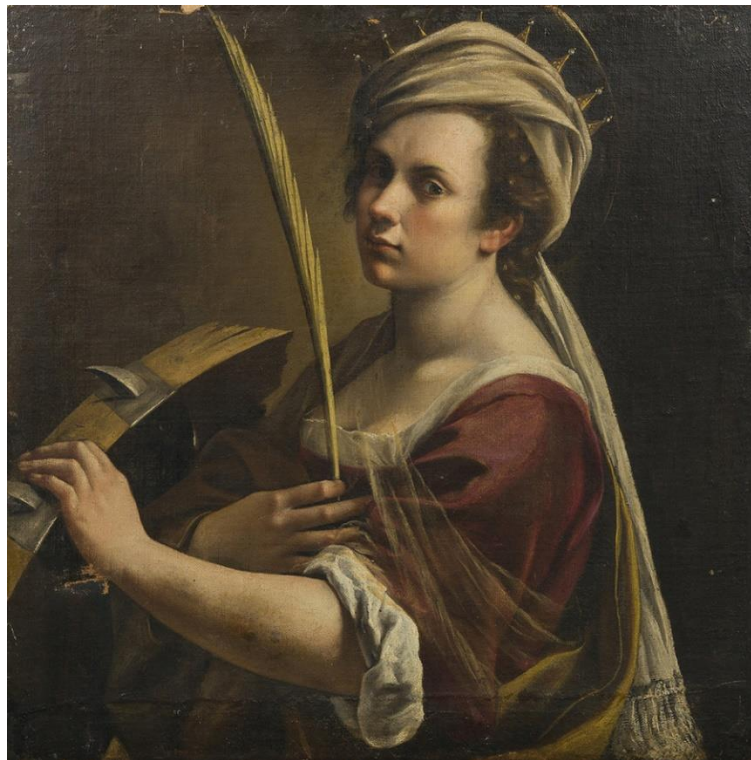


## National Gallery Purchases £3.6M Artemisia Gentileschi; Transforming How It ‘Tells The Story of Women Artists’

IMAGE: ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI, SELF-PORTRAIT AS SAINT CATHERINE, C. 1615-17, OIL ON CANVAS. COURTESY: ROBILANT + VOENA, LONDON



Artemisia Gentileschi, *Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine*, c.1615–17, oil on canvas. Courtesy: Robilant + Voena, London

**The National Gallery in London has bought a 17th century Artemisia Gentileschi self-portrait for a record GBP£3.6 million.** The gallery has just 20 works by female artists in its collection of 2,300 Western European paintings. In *Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine* (c. 1615–17), the artist took on the guise of the 4th century martyr, leant over a spiked wheel (the torture instrument associated with the saint). Some critics have read the work as an allusion to Gentileschi’s own experience of sexual violence, and the ensuing trial in which the artist was subjected to torture. Gallery trustee Hannah Rothschild said that the acquisition of the masterpiece realizes a long-held dream of increasing the collection’s women artists, adding that ‘Gentileschi was a pioneer, a master storyteller and one of the most progressive and expressive painters of the period. One of a handful of women who was able to shatter the confines of her time, she overcame extreme personal

difficulties to succeed in the art of painting.’ Larry Keith, the National Gallery’s head of conservation, will lead the painting’s restoration process over the next six to nine months before the work will go on show in 2019.

Read the full article here: <https://frieze.com/article/national-gallery-purchases-ps36m-artemis-gentileschi-transforming-how-it-tells-story-women>