



AT HOME WITH Queens College

PRESENTS

Imperia Cognati: Courtesan, Poet, and Model

By Clare Carroll, Professor of Comparative Literature at Queens College

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 • 4 PM (ET)

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Courtesan Imperia Cognati's impact on early 16th-century Roman culture deserves a closer look. Through her role as poet, performer, and confidante of the intelligentsia, she influenced some of the greatest artists and intellectuals of Renaissance Rome. This talk will explore her legacy, as well as the opposing explanations for her apparent suicide offered by Bandello's *Novelle* and her will. At the same time, the difficulties she endured as a courtesan point to her reasons for ensuring that her daughter did not follow in her footsteps.



CLARE CARROLL is a professor of comparative literature at Queens College where she has taught for more than 35 years. She is also a professor of history at the CUNY Grad Center, where she contributes to the Global Early Modern Studies Program. Her books include *Ireland and Postcolonial Theory* and *Exiles in a Global City: The Irish in Early Modern Rome 1607–1783*. Her current book project concerns Italian Renaissance artists and their models. It explores the literary traces of relationships between artists and their models and what these stories can tell us about the paintings that resulted from these collaborations.