



Listening to the Nightingale

An evening with ESTAR(SER)

17 October 2024

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Visiting researchers from ESTAR(SER) will present on their ongoing efforts to understand the history of the fugitive community known as the *Avis Tertia*, or “Order of the Third Bird” — a group known to engage in structured practices of durational attention to objects of various kinds. Revisiting recent scholarship in light of the new publication of the collected *Research Reports, 2014–2024*, three longstanding ESTAR(SER) editors, D. Graham Burnett, Justin E.H. Smith-Ruiu, and Catherine L. Hansen, will invite collaborative investigation into the relationship between persons and things.

About ESTAR(SER): The *Esthetical Society for Transcendental and Applied Realization* (now incorporating the *Society of Esthetic Realizers*) is an established body of private, independent scholars and amateurs who work collectively to recover, scrutinize, and (where relevant) draw attention to the historicity of the so-called *Avis Tertia*, or “Order of the Third Bird.” www.estarsr.net

About “The Order of the Third Bird”: There remains some confusion about the history and practices of the body known as The Order of the Third Bird, but evidence points to its having been for some time a loose network of cell-like groups that engage in ritualized forms of sustained attention, often to works of art (in a conventional sense). The canons of secrecy around these activities — their structure and purposes — have traditionally been understood to be sufficiently restrictive as to leave some doubt whether any individual professing inwardness with the Order could in fact be genuinely associated therewith.