About the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100–1800)
The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100–1800) is a national humanities research initiative undertaken collaboratively across five Australian universities, including The University of Queensland. The Centre draws on the expertise of scholars in such diverse disciplines as social and political history, the history of ideas, literary criticism, art history, and musicology to investigate individual and collective emotional experience in one of the richest and most dynamic chapters in world history: that of medieval and early modern Europe. By studying earlier European experience and culture, the Centre aims to produce a new, cross-disciplinary understanding of the long history of emotions.

Cover:
Carlo Dolci
Double self-portrait, 1674
oil on canvas, 74.5 x 60.5 cm
Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Please note this public lecture will be held in the Sir Llew Edwards Building (No. 14), St Lucia campus.

Metered parking is available at various locations on campus. Please check signage or visit www.uq.edu.au

The University of Queensland
Art Museum
University Drive, St Lucia
www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au

Open daily 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Free parking on weekends.
A Privileged Profession: Artists and Melancholia

Laurinda S. Dixon
Professor of Art History
Syracuse University, New York

Wednesday 22 October
6.00 pm
ICTE Auditorium, Sir Llew Edwards Building

Free. All welcome.

RSVP
Friday 17 October
Bookings essential as numbers are limited
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‘Feeling blue?’ ‘Down in the dumps?’ ‘In a bad humour?’ Most people have expressed these sentiments at one time or another in their lives. But these words once described a real medical disorder, ‘melancholia’, ruled by the planet Saturn and the element of earth. By labelling themselves as melancholic, artists created and defined a new elite identity in which self-worth did not depend on noble blood or material wealth, but rather on talent and intellect. They expressed this concept in their own self-portraits, which appealed to an audience whose gaze was trained to discern the invisible internal self by means of external appearances. Through the centuries, the troubled persona of the artist-genius, invented by Albrecht Dürer, has continued to embody the alienating and depersonalising forces of civilisation.

Laurinda S. Dixon is Professor of Art History in the Department of Art and Music Histories at Syracuse University. Her scholarly specialty is the relationship of art and science before the Enlightenment, and she lectures widely on the subject at universities and museums throughout the world. She is the editor of In Sickness and in Health: Disease as Metaphor in Art and Popular Wisdom (University of Delaware Press, 2004); and author of Bosch: Art and Ideas (Phaidon Publishers, 2003) and The Dark Side of Genius: The Melancholic Persona in Art, ca. 1500–1700 (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013).