

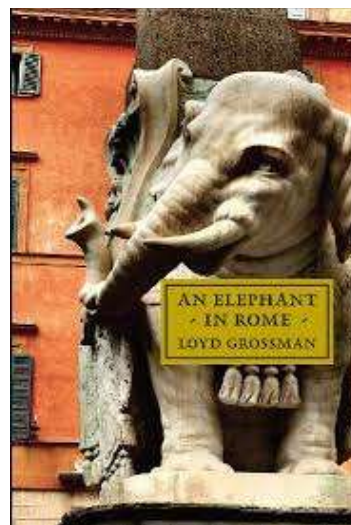
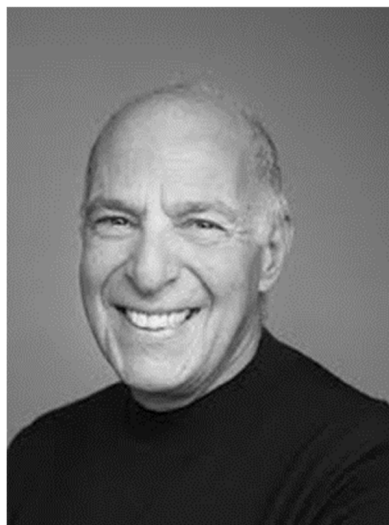


WRITER'S TALK

Loyd Grossman

Tuesday 20 October 2020

An Elephant in Rome - Bernini, the Pope, and the making of the Eternal City



In 1655, a new Pope, Alexander VII, fired with religious zeal, political guile, and a mania for building, determined to restore the prestige of his Church by making Rome the must-visit destination for Europe's elite. To help him do so he enlisted the talents of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, already celebrated as the most important artist of the age.

Loyd Grossman's love of Rome was kindled by his first encounter with the enigmatic monument to this relationship between artist and pope: the elephant carrying an obelisk outside the church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, just behind the Pantheon. Using the elephant as his starting point, Grossman teases out all the intertwined strands of history, power and art that make up the Baroque.

Loyd Grossman was born in Boston and graduated from Boston University (BA), the London School of Economics (MSc Econ) and Magdalene College, Cambridge (PhD, MPhil).

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