

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

THE PASSION OF ARTEMESIA by Susan Vreeland

- What is/are the passion(s) of Artemisia? What other characters in the book have passions?
- Why did Orazio pursue charges against Agostino?
- How did the author portray the men in the novel?
- How did author portray the women in the novel?
- Artemisia forces Orazio to 'do something' (36). Were there other alternatives?
- Why did Sister Graziela give Artemisia the one pearl earring? (43) The second earring? (183)
- Why does Artemisia think she can only teach painting once? (212). Was she wise to keep that for her daughter (215)?
- If a person is measured by "what we do with what we've been given" – how would you grade Artemisia? How did she evolve throughout the course of the novel?
- What was the author's purpose in including the penitent?
- How would Artemisia view the fact that all bios of her mention the rape trial first, followed by her accomplishments as a painter?
- What overall theme do you think Vreeland was trying to convey to the reader?
- What was your opinion of Vreeland's writing style, i.e. characterizations, descriptions of the art and/or cities?



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax
www.skokielineary.info

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