

## Sefy Hendler

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# “Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better”: Towards a Typology of Early Modern Artistic Failure

Mercredi 24 mars |  
12h15-13h45

Despite its omnipresence in the *cinquecento* art, failure has escaped the attention of most art historians as a subject of its own merits. However, Renaissance failures were as numerous as they were varied, and deeply influenced the perception of art practitioners and non-practitioners alike. The lecture aims to offer a new way of classifying and understanding unsuccessfulness through the establishment of a typology of early modern artistic failures. The establishment of such a typology should facilitate the identification of patterns of failure and their subsequent influence. Failures will be divided into four main categories: Material/Technical failure, patron-related failure, public and/or critical failure, and failure with oneself (i.e.: an artist overcome by a deep sense of failure, not necessarily related to any of the factors mentioned above). Establishing such a typology for the Renaissance – an endeavor never undertaken to date – should enable us to view it as a cultural, historiographical, legal, and artistic phenomenon, and suggest a diversified yet well-structured matrices of failure.



Jacob Matham, *Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae*: Moses after the sculpture by Michelangelo, 16th century, engraving, 36.5 x 24.5 cm, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

**Sefy Hendler** is a senior lecturer in early modern Italian art at Tel Aviv University. Hendler obtained his *Doctorat* from the Sorbonne (Paris 1 University). He also serves as the director of the Genia Schreiber University Gallery where he curated several exhibitions. Hendler specializes among others in the *Paragone* (competitive comparison) between painting and sculpture, the subject of his first book *La guerre des Arts : le Paragone peinture-sculpture en Italie, XV<sup>e</sup>-XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle* (L'Erma di Bretschneider, Rome, 2013). He was a *boursier* of the Académie de France à Rome – Villa Médicis, a fellow at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz (Max-Planck-Institut) and was elected in 2016 to the Israeli Young Academy of Sciences, becoming the first art historian to join the institution. His current research project, funded by the Israeli Science foundation since autumn 2017, examines artistic failure in 16<sup>th</sup> century Italy.