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**Famiano Strada's *Momus*: The Scholar versus the Poets of his Time**

Monday, 19.06.2017, 6:00 pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“)  
Langer Weg 11, SR 5



Amongst the texts collected by Famiano Strada in 1617 in his *Prolusiones Academicæ*, there is the *Momus, sive satyra varroniana poesi poetisque cognoscendis accommodata*. A work almost unnoticed by critics and scholars who paid attention to the other texts of this collection, containing some of the most brilliant expressions of the Jesuit point of view on Ethics, Poetics, Rhetorics and History. The *Momus* is based on the common fiction of the Council of the Poets of all times on the mount Parnassus. At a closer reading it immediately appears both as a virulent polemical attack against the major trends in the poetic culture of the beginning of the XVII century, and as an exhibition of Latin erudition and knowledge of Classic literature. Allusions hidden in the text make it clear that the very target of the *pamphlet* is the writer who acted as the “prima donna”, as the star of the poetical stage of those years: Giovanbattista Marino.