



## The Art of the Network: Strategic Interaction and Patronage in Renaissance Florence

By Paul D. McLean

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Art of the Network: Strategic Interaction and Patronage in Renaissance Florence, Paul D. McLean, Writing letters to powerful people to win their favour and garner rewards such as political office, tax relief, and recommendations was an institution in Renaissance Florence; the practice was an important tool for those seeking social mobility, security, and recognition by others. In this detailed study of political and social patronage in fifteenth-century Florence, Paul D. McLean shows that patronage was much more than a pursuit of specific rewards. It was also a pursuit of relationships and of a self defined role in relation to others. To become an independent individual in Renaissance Florence, one first had to become connected. With The Art of the Network, McLean fills a gap in sociological scholarship by tracing the historical antecedents of networking and examining the concept of self that accompanies it. His analysis of patronage opens into a critique of contemporary theories about social networks and social capital, and an exploration of the sociological meaning of "culture." McLean scrutinized thousands of letters to and from Renaissance Florentines. He describes the social protocols the letters reveal, paying particular attention...

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