On a possible self portrait by Galileo Galilei

Before becoming the great scientist that we all know and the father of modern science the young Galileo Galilei formed in a Renaissance ambient acquiring a strong artistic sensibility that transpires in his literary style and even in scientific work. He was a musician, writer and also painter as reported unanimously in the first biographies. However, there are only few evidences of the latter as the watercolors of the Moon of his first telescopic observations or the drawings of sunspots. But an amazing reference regards the existence of a self-portrait as reported by Thomas Salusbury (1664) in what is the first biography published on Galileo in any language. I recently brought to the attention of scholars on a possible new youthful portrait of Galileo Galilei. The remarkable similarity with the portraits of Domenico Tintoretto (1604 approximately), Santi di Tito (1601, via Calendi) and Furini (1612) has been recently confirmed with sophisticated facial recognition techniques (Srinivasan et al 2015, Rudolph et al 2015). If the identity will be definitively established other elements such as the sewn in the canvas which emerge from the IR or X-ray analysis of the painting or the young age would seem to suggest a link with the work just mentioned by Thomas Salusbury.