

# The Art and Industry of Stucco Decoration

## International Seminar

Stucco decoration has been traditionally studied considering its formal and artistic qualities. Despite much research and numerous publications have explored the works of the *stuccatori* and their cultural context, there has been little attention on the “art and industry” of these artists, and on how their practical and technical “know-how” contributed to the great professional and artistic success that they enjoyed. Many stucco decorations all over Europe have been realized by masters coming from the region between Lombardy and Ticino and their working methods spread all over Europe.

This international conference aims at examining the techniques and the artistic processes with which stucco decoration has been realized in different European countries from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, by foreign or by local masters. Stucco is very versatile and composite artwork, it can be executed using different materials and production methods according to what is available on site and the ability of the masters to manipulate the mortar. The conference will examine this and other related topics with an interdisciplinary approach, considering art and social history, technical art history, material science as subjects of enquiry.

### Key question:

- The role of stucco makers in the design of decorative schemes
- Materials used to create stucco decoration: relationship between their provenance, technical characteristic and working properties
- Artistic techniques used to create stucco decoration: supporting structures, coarse and fine layers, polishing
- Organisation of the working site and collaboration with architects, builders, and other artists as sculptors or painters.

**Date** 3-4 February 2022

**Place** in presence at the Istituto svizzero di Roma <https://www.istitutosvizzero.it/it/istituto-svizzero/> Or on-line on zoom .....

### Organisation committee / Promosso da

**Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici**

Istituto materiali e costruzioni,  
Dipartimento ambiente costruzioni e design,  
Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana

**Letizia Tedeschi**

Archivio del Moderno,  
Accademia di Architettura,  
Università della Svizzera italiana

### Scientific committee

Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici, Marta Caroselli SUPSI-DACD-IMC

Letizia Tedeschi USI-AAM-Archivio del Moderno

Serena Quagliaroli, Giulia Spoltore Centro Studi per la storia dello stucco in Età Moderna e Contemporanea,  
USI-AAM-Archivio del Moderno

Jana Zapletalová Palacký University Olomouc

**Languages** Presentations will be held in Italian, English and French (no translation provided)

# Program **DRAFT**

Thursday 03.02.2022

10.00 – 10.15	Introduction <b>Istituto svizzero?</b>
10.20 – 10.40	<b>Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici</b> SUPSI – Istituto materiali e costruzioni <i>The art and industry of the Ticinese stuccatori from the 16th to the 17th century</i>
10.40 – 11.00	<b>Jessica Gritti</b> Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani <i>Notes on the use of stucco in Milan between 15th and 16th centuries</i>
11.00 – 11.20	<b>Laura Stagno</b> Università degli studi di Genova - DIRAAS <i>Notes on Palazzo del Principe's stucco decoration: a focus on the Loggia degli Eroi and the Galleria Aurea</i>
11.20 – 11.40	Questions ( <b>Moderator: ??</b> )
11.40 – 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 – 12.20	<b>Serena Quagliarioli, Giulia Spoltore</b> Università della Svizzera italiana – Archivio del Moderno <i>Domenico Fontana and the Art of Stucco: Roman and Neapolitan Worksites</i>
12.20 – 12.40	<b>Francesco Freddolini</b> Sapienza Università di Roma - Dipartimento di Storia Antropologia Religioni Arte Spettacolo <i>Pietro da Cortona in Florence: Re-Thinking Stucco as Protagonist</i>
12.40 – 13.00	<b>Torsten Tjarks</b> Art historian <i>A Question of Control. The Execution of Stuccowork in Borromini's Buildings</i>
13.00 – 13.30	Questions ( )
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch (speakers only)
14.30 – 14.50	<b>Vittoria Brunetti</b> Scuola Normale di Pisa - PhD student <i>The working site of the chapel of Santa Cecilia in the church of San Carlo ai Catinari in Rome: materials and artistic processes</i>
14.50 – 15.10	<b>Carla Giovannone</b> Funzionario restauratore - Istituto Centrale del Restauro – Roma <i>Leonardo Retti a Roma: la decorazione in stucco di Santa Marta al Collegio Romano</i>
15.10 – 15.30	<b>Nicolas Cordon</b> Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne <i>Is there a French Stucco? Gypsum Ornament in Seventeenth Century France: Jacques Sarrazin and the Castle of Maisons</i>
15.30 – 15.50	<b>Valentina Burgassi, Mauro Volpiano</b> Politecnico di Torino – Dipartimento di architettura e design <i>Plasterers at the Savoyard court: the construction of court palaces in 17th Century Piedmont</i>
15.50 – 16.10	Questions ( <b>Moderator: ??</b> )
16.10 – 16.30	Coffee
16.30 – 16.50	<b>Carlotta Brovadan</b> Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali, Roma <i>An overview of stucco decoration in 17th-century L'Aquila</i>
16.50 – 17.10	<b>Wijnand Freling</b> Dutch Stucco Guild <i>The rise of interior ornamental Stuccoworks in the Netherlands from the 16th till the 18th century</i>
17.10 - 17.30	<b>Barbara Rinn-Kupka</b> Art historian <i>"50 Shades of Stucco" – Techniques and market development lines of stucco-masters in the German countries of the 16th and 17th century</i>

17.30 – 17.50	<b>Pietro Delpero</b> Art historian <i>Collaboration between Architects and Plasterers on Construction Sites in Southern Germany (17th-18th Centuries)</i>
17.50 – 18.20	Questions ( <b>Moderator: ??</b> )
18.20 – 20.00	Apero

## Friday 04.02.2022

9.30 – 9.50	<b>Veronika K. Wanková</b> Charles University Prague <b>Renata Tišlová – Peter Majoros</b> University of Pardubice <i>Collection of Renaissance stucco statues at Bučovice Castle</i>
9.50 – 10.10	<b>Martin Krumholz</b> Palacký University Olomouc <i>Carlo Lurago: Stucco worker and / versus Architect</i>
10.10 – 10.30	<b>Michał Kurzej</b> Jagiellonian University - Institute of Art History <i>Profession of stucco maker in 17th century Lesser Poland</i>
10.30 – 10.50	<b>Beata Klimek</b> Lublin University of Technology - Department of Historic Building Preservation <i>Giovanni Battista Falcony's moulding workshop 1630-1658</i>
10.50 – 11.10	Questions ( <b>Jana Zapletalová</b> )
11.10 – 11.40	Coffee break
11.40 – 12.00	<b>Marta Caroselli, Alberto Felici, Giovanni Nicoli</b> SUPSI – Istituto materiali e costruzioni <b>Jan Válek</b> Czech Academy of Sciences <b>Jana Zapletalová</b> Palacký University Olomouc <i>Baldassarre Fontana and the Stucco Decoration in the Church of the Holy Hill near Olomouc (Czech Republic)</i>
12.00 – 12.20	<b>Marta Bensa</b> Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia - Nova Gorica Regional Office <b>Sabina Dolenc, Katarina Šter</b> Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute <i>Investigation of the composition of stucco from selected cultural heritage objects in Slovenia</i>
12.20 – 12.40	<b>Giannotta Gaetano</b> Universitat Jaume I of Castellón de la Plana - PhD student <b>José Luis Regidor Ros</b> Universitat Politècnica de València - Department of Conservation and Restoration <i>The stuccoes in the church of Santos Juanes in Valencia, Spain (1693 – 1702)</i>
12.40 – 13.00	<b>Mickaël Zito</b> Musée des beaux-arts et d'archéologie de Besançon – Project manager <i>Sabbia, gesso e calce : gli stucchi dei Marca della Valsesia</i>
13.00 – 13.30	Questions & conclusions
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch (speakers only)
15.00	VISITS