

SUPSI

The Art and Industry of Stucco Decoration

International conference

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 16th to the 17th 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 4-5 February 2021

Place Istituto svizzero di Roma <https://www.istitutosvizzero.it/it/istituto-svizzero/>

Organisation committee

Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici, Marta Caroselli SUPSI-IMC

Scientific committee

Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici, Marta Caroselli SUPSI-IMC

Letizia Tedeschi Archivio del Moderno – Balerna

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

Jana Zapletalová Palacký University Olomouc

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

Program

Thursday 04.02.2021

09.00 – 09.15	Introduction
09.20 – 09.40	Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici SUPSI – Istituto materiali e costruzioni <i>The art and industry of the Ticinese stuccatori from the 16th to the 17th century</i>
09.40 – 10.00	Jessica Gritti Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani <i>Note sull'uso dello stucco a Milano tra Quattro e Cinquecento</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Stefano L'Occaso Soprintendenza per il patrimonio storico artistico demotnoantropologico Mantova <i>Stucco technique in Mantua (1520-1560)</i>
10.20 – 10.40	Laura Stagno 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>
10.40 – 11.00	Questions
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 11.50	Serena Quagliaroli, Giulia Spoltore Università della Svizzera italiana - Archivio del Moderno <i>Domenico Fontana e lo stucco: cantieri romani e napoletani</i>
11.50 – 12.10	Francesco Freddolini University of Regina (Canada) - Humanities Research Institute <i>Pietro da Cortona in Florence: Re-Thinking Stucco as Protagonist</i>
12.10 – 12.30	Torsten Tjarks Universität Bonn – Kunsthistorisches Institut <i>A Question of Control. The Execution of Stuccowork in Borromini's Buildings</i>
12.30 – 12.50	Vittoria Brunetti 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>
12.50 – 13.15	Questions
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 14.35	Nicolas Cordon Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/ Université François Rabelais de Tours <i>Is there a French Stucco? Gypsum Ornament in Seventeenth Century France: Jacques Sarrazin and the Château de Maisons</i>
14.35 – 14.55	Valentina Burgassi, Mauro Volpiano Politecnico di Torino – Dipartimento di architettura e design <i>Plasterers in the Savoyard court: the construction of court palaces in XVII century Piedmont</i>
14.55 – 15.15	Pierfrancesco Palazzotto Università degli studi di Palermo - Dipartimento Culture e società Bartolomeo Megna, Giovanni Rizzo, Laura Ercoli Università degli studi di Palermo - Dipartimento di Ingegneria <i>Giacomo Serpotta</i>
15.15 – 15.45	Questions
	Visit (to be defined)

Friday 05.02.2021

9.00 – 9.20	Veronika K. Wanková Olomouc Museum of Art Renata Tišlová – Peter Majoros University of Pardubice <i>Collection of Renaissance stucco statues at Bučovice Castle</i>
9.20 – 9.40	Martin Krummholz Palacký University Olomouc

	<i>Carlo Lurago: Stucco worker and / versus Architect</i>
9.40 – 10.00	Michał Kurzej Jagiellonian University - Institute of Art History <i>Profession of stucco maker in 17th century Lesser Poland</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Beata Klimek Lublin University of Technology - Department of Historic Building Preservation <i>Giovanni Battista Falcony's moulding workshop 1630-1658</i>
10.20 – 10.40	Marta Caroselli, Alberto Felici SUPSI – Istituto materiali e costruzioni Jan Válek Czech Academy of Sciences Jana Zapletalová Palacký University Olomouc <i>Baldassarre Fontana</i>
10.40 – 11.10	Coffee break
11.10 – 11.50	Marta Bensa Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia - Nova Gorica Regional Office Sabina Dolenc, Katarina Šter Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute <i>Investigation of the composition of stucco from selected cultural heritage objects in Slovenia</i>
11.50 – 12.10	Carlotta Brovadan Art historian <i>An overview of stucco decoration in 17th-century L'Aquila</i>
12.10 – 12.30	Giannotta Gaetano Universitat Jaume I of Castellón de la Plana - PhD student José Luis Regidor Ros Universitat Politècnica de València - Department of Conservation and Restoration <i>The stuccoes in the church of Santos Juanes in Valencia, Spain (1693 – 1702)</i>
12.30 – 12.50	Mickaël Zito Musée des beaux-arts et d'archéologie de Besançon <i>Sabbia, gesso e calce : gli stucchi dei Marca della Valsesia</i>
12.50 – 13.15	Questions
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 14.35	Wijnand Freling Dutch Stucco Guild <i>The rise of interior ornamental Stuccoworks in the Netherlands from the 16th till the 18th century</i>
14.35 – 14.55	Barbara Rinn-Kupka 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>
14.55 – 15.15	Pietro Delpero Art historian <i>Collaboration between Architects and Plasterers on Construction Sites in Southern Germany (17th-18th Centuries)</i>
15.15 – 15.45	Christine Casey Trinity College Dublin <i>Design and execution of decorative stucco in Britain and Ireland 1720-1740</i>
15.45 – 16.15	Conclusions