

CALL FOR PAPERS

Stucco Decoration in «Middle Italy» (16th-19th Centuries): Marginality, Borders, Circulation

International Conference
L'Aquila, 16-17 September 2022



Photo: Francesco Cardarelli

The aim of the conference is to solicit contributions and reflections on the stucco decorations executed between the 16th and the early 19th centuries in a number of areas in Central Italy which can be referred to as a whole as «Middle Italy», adopting an ancient denomination already used in other recent research projects promoted by the University of L'Aquila.

The stucco decorations carried out in these territories have yet to be thoroughly studied, as they have so far been the subject of sporadic investigations often characterized by analysis focused only on the local context and limited results. These gaps in studies are partially due to the widespread damage and destruction of cultural assets caused by earthquakes that repeatedly struck Middle Italy, but also to the concentration of research on more relevant centers such as Rome and Florence.

The conference therefore intends to focus on lesser-known territories such as the lower Marches, lower Umbria, upper Lazio, Abruzzi, Irpinia, and the surrounding areas, to shed light on cities and towns too often overlooked by scholars. The aim is to examine the trajectories of artists and their workshop to better understand the circulation of technical “know-how” and stylistic features, the migration of masters, the network of relations promoted by patrons, and the spread of a specific taste thanks to the versatility of stucco. The conference covers a wide chronological span, from the 16th-century efforts to master the recipe of ancient Roman stucco, through the Baroque Era, to the first decades of the 19th century.

Combining theoretical reflections with a specific focus on materials and techniques, the objective is also to further investigate the training of stucco workers and their self-promotion strategies in the field of artistic-architectural production. A further line of research is the presence of masters coming from the region between Lombardy and Ticino and their artistic and technical influence on the territories under analysis.

Hoping to gather researchers in the fields of history of art and architecture, and conservation-restoration, the conference welcomes papers addressing different topics and methodologies, examining archival documents, primary and secondary sources, artworks, photographs, and restoration materials.

The conference will conclude the Summer School *Le vie dello stucco in Abruzzo. Episodi, metodi e prospettive di ricerca (sec. XVI-XVIII)* (12-16 September 2022) and will be held at the University of L’Aquila (Via Nizza 14, 67100 L’Aquila) and online on 16-17 September 2022.

Abstracts (max. 2000 characters) and a short CV (max. 1000 characters) should be submitted in Italian or English by no later than **15 May 2022** to [**stucco.abruzzo@gmail.com**](mailto:stucco.abruzzo@gmail.com).

Notification of acceptance will be given by 31 May 2022.

Scientific and organizing committee: Barbara Agosti (Dipartimento di Studi letterari, filosofici e di storia dell’arte, Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”), Tancredi Farina (Soprintendenza archeologia belle arti e paesaggio per le province di L’Aquila e Teramo), Michele Maccherini (Dipartimento di Scienze Umane, Università degli Studi dell’Aquila), Luca Pezzuto (Dipartimento di Scienze Umane, Università degli Studi dell’Aquila), Serena Quagliaroli (Dipartimento di Studi Storici, Università degli Studi di Torino), Giulia Spoltore (Archivio del Moderno, Università della Svizzera italiana), Letizia Tedeschi (Archivio del Moderno, Università della Svizzera italiana), Jana Zapletalová (Palacký University Olomouc). In collaboration with Centro Studi per la Storia dello Stucco in Età Moderna e Contemporanea.