Art, Architecture and Humanism in Bologna 1446-1530 (Bologna, 13-15 Jun 18)

Department of the Arts, Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Jun 13–15, 2018
Deadline: Dec 15, 2017

Francesco Benelli

Art, Architecture and Humanism in Bologna 1446-1530
International conference, Bologna, 13-15 June 2018

Institutions involved: Department of the Arts, Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies, Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Ecole Pratique des Haute Etudes, Sorbonne (PSL) Paris, Histara

Organizing Commitee: Gian Mario Anselmi, Andrea Bacchi, Daniele Benati, Francesco Benelli, Sonia Cavicchioli, Loredana Chines, Sabine Frommel, Angela Maria Ghirardi, Irene Graziani, Fabrizio Lollini.

Since the XIII century Bologna was the second most important city in the Papal States. Due to its central position, and closeness to all the major courts of the Italian peninsula it was a rich crossroads for commercial, cultural and artistic exchange. Moreover, the Studium, its university, was together with the Sorbonne, in Paris, one of the greatest European intellectual cultural centres, bringing together a unique scholarly community, a very appealing aspect for both students (amongst whom we can count Leon Battista Alberti and Tomaso Parentucelli, future pope Nicolas V) and professors.
In spite of this cultural and economic climate, and the presence of first class artists in town, except for some remarkable but isolated cases, the Bolognese Humanism was slow in taking hold. This delay, compared to other main Italian courts, was probably due to the persistence of the Gothic tradition, still very strong also in the Studim, before Nicolas V's 1455 Bull. The old-fashioned tastes of the city's aristocracy, the prominence of the great building site of San Petronio, as well as the lack of local antique buildings to take as inspirational models, all contributed to this stagnation.
The arts and literature started developing, according to different rhythms, in the period spanning from the beginning of the rule of Sante and Giovanni II Bentivoglio (1446-1506) until 1530, when the Emperor Charles V and his court were hosted for his coronation, thus putting the town at the center of the attention of all the European courts. The praise in honor of Giovanni II Bentivoglio that glorifies him for having transformed the city built in wood to a city built in marble, as Augustus had done with Rome, is quite representative of the fact that times were changing.
The conference intends to define the identity of Bolognese literary and artistic culture and practice between 1446 and 1530. Papers should address with an original and innovative approach the

humanistic Bolognese revolution, its influence and effects in relation to painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, their mutual exchanges and interactions, as well its reception in other Italian and European cultural centers.

The conference is organised in four sessions:

- Philology and symbols: Bolognese Humanism between word and image (chair: Gian Mario Anselmi)
Keywords: symbols; philology; encyclopedism; images.

- Architectural language and written language (chair: Francesco Benelli)
Keywords: Origins and identity of the Bentivolian humanistic architectural language; Architecture and decoration; Court architecture; The Bolognese reception of Florentine, Milanese, Venetian and Roman innovations; Architectural theory; The Medieval tradition in the new Humanistic Language; Giulio's II arrival and the new Roman stylistic references.

-The Sacred dimension (chair: Daniele Benati)
Keywords: Representation and liturgic space; Innovative altarpieces: types and shapes; The patron's role and expectations; The Artists cultural background; The workshop's role; Illustrating liturgic books; Tradition and innovation; The Influence of foreign models; Humanists and sacred sculpture and painting, Sacred space and self-representation; Painted architecture; Tasks and responsibility in the product process; Literary texts as sources; Images and texts; Places and forms of devotion.

- Bologna and Europe (chair: Sabine Frommel)
Keywords: The migration of Bolognese artists; The role of Bolognese artists in the definition of classicism in Europe; Bolognese influence on the assimilation of Renaissance language; Bolognese methods in practice in foreign countries; The Bolognese artist abroad: habits and lifestyle

Interested applicants should send their proposal and a curriculum, each of 250 words max, also stating the section they would prefer, by 15th December 2017.
Please submit your abstract to: convegno.bologna.umanesimo@gmail.com
Selected abstracts will be notified by 15 January 2018

Accommodation costs will be covered; Travel costs will be covered up to 200 euros for European participants and up to 500 euros for Overseas (Extra European) participants.

Reference:
CFP: Art, Architecture and Humanism in Bologna 1446-1530 (Bologna, 13-15 Jun 18). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 3, 2017 (accessed Nov 3, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/16644>.