The Art and Industry of Stucco Decoration (Rome, 1–2 Oct 20)

Rome, Istituto Svizzero, Oct 1–02, 2020
Deadline: Mar 29, 2020

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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

Organisation committee
Giacinta Jean, Alberto Felici, Marta Caroselli SUPSI – Mendrisio
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 Zapletalova University of Olomouc

Schedule

Abstracts (max. 2000 characters) for 20-minute presentations and a short CV (max. 500 characters) can be submitted in English by no later than March 29th 2020 to stuccodecoration@supsi.ch
Notification of acceptance will be given by April 27th 2020.

Reference:
CFP: The Art and Industry of Stucco Decoration (Rome, 1-2 Oct 20). In: ArtHist.net, Jan 24, 2020 (accessed Nov 20, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/22474>.