

## Italian Drawings (online, 7–9 Apr 21)

online / The Menil Drawing Institute, Houston, Apr 7–09, 2021

Menil Drawing Institute

The Menil Drawing Institute is pleased to announce a virtual symposium on Italian Drawings from the Twentieth Century from April 7–9, 2021.

The three-day online series on modern Italian drawings is organized in conjunction with the exhibition *Silent Revolutions: Italian Drawings from the Twentieth Century*, on view at the Menil Drawing Institute through April 11, 2021.

Like all of the Menil's programs, these events are free and open to everyone. Online registration is encouraged. A link to sign up is available on the webpage for each program.

Keynote Lecture by Professor Emily Braun

Visionary Line: The Drawings of Adolfo Wildt

Wednesday, April 7, 12–1 p.m. CST, online

Menil website link:  
<https://www.menil.org/events/3603-symposium-on-italian-drawings-from-the-twentieth-century-keynote-lecture-by-professor-emily-braun>

Emily Braun, Distinguished Professor at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, looks at how Symbolist artist Adolfo Wildt exploited drawing as a medium of visionary experience, both for the artist and the viewer. In the emaciated line of his pencil drawings, as well as in his crepuscular charcoal compositions, Wildt relied on specific graphic qualities to represent bodies in ecstasy, suffering, and trance-like states.

Panel on Women Artists

Thursday, April 8, 12–1:30 p.m. CST, online

Menil website link:  
<https://www.menil.org/events/3604-symposium-on-italian-drawings-from-the-twentieth-century-panel-on-women-artists>

This panel focuses on Italian draftswomen, with three presentations by leading experts in the field: Silvia Bottinelli, Tufts University; Teresa Kittler, University of York; and Lucia Re, University of California, Los Angeles. Throughout the 20th century, women artists in Italy were frequently marginalized or excluded from institutional frameworks and many remain little known to this day, despite their rich and varied oeuvre.

Teresa Kittler (Lecturer in History of Art, University of York):

"Bice Lazzari: On the Line"

Silvia Bottinelli (Senior Lecturer in Visual and Critical Studies, Tufts University):

"Body language. Tomaso Binga's Alfabetieri"

Lucia Re (Research Professor of Italian and Gender Studies, UCLA):

"A Woman Sets out to Draw the World: Maria Lai's Patient Labyrinth of Lines"

Panel on the Interconnections Between American and Italian Artists

Friday, April 9, 12–1:30 p.m. CST, online

Menil

website

link:

<https://www.menil.org/events/3605-symposium-on-italian-drawings-from-the-twentieth-century-panel-on-the-interconnections-between-american-and-italian-artists>

Presentations by Irina Zucca Alessandrelli, Collezione Ramo, Milan; Raffaele Bedarida, The Cooper Union, New York; and Francesco Guzzetti, University of Florence, focus on cross-currents in drawing practices between Italian and American artists in the 20th century. Based on mutual discovery and reception, the international artistic exchange had varied connotations with a long-lasting impact on American and Italian artists, and also collectors, critics, curators, and dealers.

Raffaele Bedarida (Assistant Professor of Art History, The Cooper Union, New York):

"Beyond Cultural Diplomacy: Exhibiting Contemporary Italian Drawings in the US, Fascism to the Cold War"

Irina Zucca Alessandrelli (Curator, Collezione Ramo, Milan):

"Free hand suggestions from the United States. Post World War II drawings in Collezione Ramo"

Francesco Guzzetti (Visiting Professor, University of Florence):

"Jannis Kounellis: Drawing Identity in the 1970s and 1980s"

Attending the program:

This program takes place online. The Zoom links to attend will be available on the programs' pages on the Menil's website on the day of the program. No registration is required.

If you'd like to receive an email reminder for all symposium programs, sign up on any of the three program pages by Tuesday, April 6, at 5 p.m. CST.

Like all of our programs, this event is free and open to everyone.

Reference:

CONF: Italian Drawings (online, 7-9 Apr 21). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 26, 2021 (accessed Jul 16, 2025),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/33701>>.