

Postdoc Fellowship, Decay, Loss, and Conservation in Art History, Rome

Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History in Rome
Application deadline: Jan 15, 2026

Viktoria Hoertenhuber

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Research Group "Decay, Loss, and Conservation in Art History", Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome.

The Max Planck Society is Germany's premier research organization. The eighty-six Max Planck Institutes conduct research at the highest level in the service of the general public in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences, and the humanities.

The Lise Meitner Group "Decay, Loss, and Conservation in Art History" led by Francesca Borgo at the Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History in Rome seeks to appoint a:

Postdoctoral Fellow (M/F/D)

The deadline for application is January 15, 2026, 12 pm CEST. The funding period begins in spring 2026 and can run for up to twelve months. Motivations for the length of the proposed funding period should be made clear in the cover letter.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will conduct their own original research project within the overall framework of the Lise Meitner Group. Excellence in research, commitment to pursue new insights through original scholarship, and willingness to become part of a group of young, international scholars are essential. The candidate will actively participate in the Group's activities and is expected to contribute to its publication output while benefiting from editorial and image licensing support. They will be responsible for planning and organizing seminars, workshops, visits and fieldtrips in collaboration with other team members and under the supervision of the Group Leader/Principal Investigator. Candidates must be conversant in English and familiar with Italian and/or German.

Candidates are invited to include in their cover letter a statement of how their work advances the goals of the research group. In order to do so, it is suggested to review the Research Group's research agenda, yearly initiatives and event series, as well as the broader structure of the Bibliotheca Hertziana into which the Research Group fits.

We welcome applications from candidates in every field within the history of art, technical art history, conservation history and museum studies, with preference given to projects spanning traditional disciplinary boundaries. The selection committee aims to assess the ability of candidates to contribute in a collegial way to the intellectual life of the Research Group. We give special con-

sideration to candidates without regular access to research materials and facilities in Italy and pay special attention to the strength of the proposed project and its potential to yield original results.

This is a residential fellowship. By the start of the appointment, candidates are expected to have taken up residence in Rome. The fellowship may not be held concurrently with another major fellowship award; applicants must disclose any supplementary funding and may not take on other obligations during their fellowship period.

The Max Planck Society offers a fixed-term contract of employment. Stipend and benefits are determined according to the German Civil Service Collective Agreement (65% TVöD Bund E 13) or equivalent, depending on individual personal circumstances. Fellows enjoy all the privileges of the institute, including library access seven days a week, a research budget, and their own desk.

The Max Planck society strives for diversity and gender equality. We welcome applications from all backgrounds. Furthermore, The Max Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals.

To apply, the candidate must upload the following documents as separate PDF files to the application portal: <https://recruitment.biblhertz.it>.

- Cover letter that clearly states the candidate's contribution to the research group's objectives and the upcoming annual research initiative as well as the motivation for their proposed length of stay
- Description of proposed research project (max. 1000 words), accompanied by a bibliography
- Curriculum vitae with list of publications (including those forthcoming, under revision, submitted, or in preparation)
- Contact details of one referee
- Output proposal (max. 500 words). This could be a site visit, a collaboration with a local collection, a research seminar, a publishable piece of writing, or a contribution to a national or international conference that will be realized during the fellowship period. The proposal should detail specific names and locations and specify how the output aligns with the research group's themes.

For any questions, please email Editorial-LMG@biblhertz.it.

Reference:

STIP: Postdoc Fellowship, Decay, Loss, and Conservation in Art History, Rome. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 22, 2025 (accessed Jan 14, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/51192>>.