

SUPSI

The Art and Industry of the Ticinese Stuccatori from the 16th to the 17th Century

Between the 16th and 17th centuries, the stuccatori from Canton Ticino were requested in all of Europe to take part in the decoration of the main building projects. Their methods of organizing the work, their ability to collaborate with other artists and workers, their attention to updating formal requirements represented their strengths. These qualities probably would not have been sufficient if they were not accompanied also by a particular ability in mastering the challenging art of stucco.

Despite much research that explored the works of these artists and their cultural context, there has never been attention on how their practical and technical “know-how” contributed to the great professional and artistic success that they enjoyed. It is still not known if there is a typical art of stucco specific to Canton Ticino and to the Region of the lakes or if each artist or “family” interpreted the use of materials and techniques in their own way.

This research intends to analyse the technique and the artistic process with which the stuccatori created, between the 16th and the 17th centuries, important works of art in their homelands, to understand if it is possible to individuate a common *modus operandi* or if each “family” worked according to their own established methods.

Studying the artistic process and not only the finished “products” will lead to a better understanding of stucco decoration, placing this art in a wider cultural framework; it will expand with new data the knowledge of the art historians, verifying the existence of “schools” and dates, and it will allow to compare the decoration created by these artists outside of Ticino.



Publications

- ♦ G. Cavallo, M. Caroselli, L. Aliverti, A. Felici, G. Jean, G. Nicoli, S. Luppichini, *Research on 17th c. stucco decorations by the Silva family workshop in the Basilica Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Morbio Inferiore (Tessin)*. Proceedings of HMC2016 Historic Mortars Conference, 10-12 October 2016, Santorini, Greece. (in press), 2016.
- ♦ M. Caroselli, G. Cavallo, A. Felici, L. Aliverti, S. Luppichini, G. Jean, G. Nicoli, *Characterisation of the stucco decorations at the “Sacro Monte di Ossuccio” (16th-17th century), Como, Italy*, in International Journal of Conservation Science, vol 7, 2, 2016, pp. 857-870.



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