

Art

beyond Placeness: Narratives of Movement in the Early Modern Period

A workshop organized by Mattia Biffis

THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE IN ROME

Viale Trenta Aprile, 33 - Rome

31 May
1 June
2023

Art beyond Placeness: Narratives of Movement in the Early Modern Period

In recent years, the new importance attributed to the biographies of objects and their global circulation has drawn increasing attention to the phenomenon of their physical transportation – in other words, to the complex sets and modes of actions required to move an object from the point of creation to its final destination. Inspired by the growing body of scholarship, this workshop aims to develop new tools to perceive, measure and interpret the movement of things, by looking specifically at the way physical transportation has been described, inspected, and dissected in early modern sources. The materials under scrutiny here may take different forms, from diaries, letters, and other prosopographical accounts recording movement in its making; to archival materials that track unusual patterns of transportation and physical delivery; to letters, treatises, and even guides or handbooks reporting ex post facto descriptions of mobility. This workshop intends to probe this vast collection of sources in order to tease out how mobility was described and conceptualized, surveyed and explored in the long early modern period (approximately from 1350 to 1800), before the rise of modern logistics. In short, it addresses from all angles the narrative potential of mobility: how describing movement “makes a good story.”

Wednesday, May 31

14:30 WELCOME AT THE INSTITUTE

14:45 Director's Welcome
Kristin Aavitsland (DNIR)

15:00 Introduction: Setting things in motion
Mattia Biffis

15:30 Writing and Recovering the Spaces-in-Between
Elizabeth Rodini (Independent, New York)

16:15 Storie di città portuali: Genova, Livorno e un perduto
Diana e le ninfe
Vincenzo Sorrentino (Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e
la Cultura, Torino)

17:00 BREAK

17:15 Federico Barocci: Accompagnamenti, trasporti e
spedizioni di opere
Barbara Agosti (Università di Roma Tor Vergata)
Anna Maria Ambrosini Massari (Università di Urbino)

18:00 RECEPTION

20:00 DINNER

Thursday, June 1

10:15 Wartime Mobility
Francesca Borgo (Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max-Planck-
Institut für Kunstgeschichte)

11:00 Colonne galleggianti: i genovesi e il trasporto del
marmo nel Mediterraneo nel primo Seicento
Roberto Santamaria (Université de Genève, Università
di Genova)

11:45 BREAK

12:00 Risk, Risk Aversion, and the Rewards of Moving
Sculptures from Grand Ducal Tuscany
Kelley Helmstutler Di Dio (University of Vermont)

12:45 LUNCH

14:00 “Il maneggiare Marmi di Mole Straordinaria ogni
Nazione la cede all Carrarini”: Giovanni Battista Raggi,
specialista nel trasporto e messa in opere di sculture
monumentali (1765-1774)
Andrea Fusani (Università di Pisa)

14:45 Il trasporto di edifici ed elementi architettonici:
strumenti e tecniche a Roma nei secoli XV-XIX
Maria Grazia D'Amelio (Università di Roma Tor Vergata)
Lorenzo Grieco (Università di Roma Tor Vergata)

15:30 BREAK

15:45 Dislocating Antiquities, Conserving the Past, Teaching
the Present: The Mobility of Ancient Architecture in the
early 18th Century
Eleonora Pistis (Columbia University)

16:30 Keeping the strings together: the perfection of mobility
of objects in the aftermath of Napoleon
Jörg Ebeling (Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris)

17:15 Final remarks



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