

NOT JUST CANOVA
NEOCLASSICAL SCULPTURE IN
ITALY 1770-1815

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October 2026
Spoleto, Palazzo Collicola
Biblioteca Giovanni Carandente



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The annual October study days organized by The Marignoli di Montecorona Foundation, in collaboration with the Fondazione Federico Zeri, return this year and will be devoted to Neoclassical sculpture. The conference will offer an overview of sculpture across the entire Italian peninsula, from the last quarter of the Eighteenth Century through the Napoleonic era. The journey will begin in Rome, crucible and capital of Neoclassicism, and the destination for study and discussion for artists, scholars and collectors from across Italy and beyond, from Johann Joachim Winckelmann to Antonio Canova, Jacques-Louis David and John Flaxman. Following an initial focus on the papal capital, the conference will turn to the other principal centers of artistic interest across an Italy that remained decidedly polycentric even in this field. Within broader, apparently monolithic tendencies, such the imitation of antiquity or the unchallenged authority of Canova, we will bring to light local interpretations that privileged alternative aspects such as the heroic, the elegiac, the graceful, or the horrific – all of which lay hidden beneath the broader Neoclassical label. "Not just Canova", therefore, but also centuries-old artistic traditions that were firmly rooted in the most vibrant centers of late-Eighteenth-Century Italy and with which the new language had to come to terms, often in the face of resistance from a Baroque tradition that endured into the early Nineteenth Century. As we have learned from seminal studies such as Gérard Hubert's *La sculpture dans l'Italie napoléonienne* (1964), the modernizing drive of Napoleon grafted itself onto this panorama, bringing about a standardization that was unable to completely erase the specific local identities of an Italian culture that was still very much polyphonic. It did, however, lay the foundations for new ideas that would germinate into Purist and Romantic tendencies under the Restoration.

As in past editions, curators Andrea Bacchi, Duccio K. Marignoli and Francesco Zagnoni have included younger scholars alongside established experts, in order to offer a broad cross-section of the most recent developments in historical and artistic research on Neoclassical sculpture in Italy.



Antonio Trentanove, *Minerva questions Jupiter about Ithaca's fate*, Faenza, palazzo Milzetti

Useful contacts

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SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

2.30 pm
Opening of the conference
Official greetings

Andrea Sisti
Mayor of Spoleto

Andrea Bacchi
Director Fondazione
Federico Zeri

Duccio K. Marignoli
President Fondazione
Marignoli di Montecorona

Francesco Zagnoni
Art historian,
Superintendency of
Archaeology, Fine Arts and
Landscape for the
Provinces of Parma and
Piacenza

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair
Duccio K. Marignoli

3 pm
Andrea Bacchi
1780: The Persistence of
the Baroque

3.30 pm
Francesco Leone
From Baroque Legacy to
Neoclassical Avant-Garde:
The Sculpture of Vincenzo
Pacetti

4 pm
Giovanna Capitelli
Sculpture in Rome in the
Capitoline Exhibitions of
1809 and 1810

4.30 pm
Albertina Ciani
Between Imperial
Classicism and Baroque
Legacy: Giacomo Spalla in
Napoleonic Turin

5 pm
**Discussion and closing of
the afternoon session**

6 pm
Peter Benson Miller
Guided visit to the
exhibition *Un salto nel
vuoto. Filippo Marignoli.
1926 - 1995*

7 pm
Visit to Palazzo Marignoli
(for conference attendees
only)

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

9 am
Welcome coffee

MORNING SESSION

Chair
Francesco Zagnoni

9.30 am
Matteo Salomone
Sculpture in Napoleonic
Genoa (1805-1814): Nicolò
Traverso and the
Monument to the Emperor

10 am
Susanna Zanuso
Milan 1776-1790

10.30 am
Omar Cucciniello
Camillo Pacetti in Milan

11 am
Elena Catra
Academy and Public
Decoration. Sculpture and
Sculptors in Venice in the
Early Decades of the
Nineteenth Century

11.30 am
Davide Lipari
In Middle-Earth. Petronio
Tadolini and Sculpture in
Bologna towards the
Neoclassical Age

12 noon
Discussion

1 pm
Lunch Break

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair
Andrea Bacchi

2.30 pm
Francesco Zagnoni
Felice Giani and the
Sculptors

3 pm
Filippo Antichi
Struggles and Triumphs of
Innocenzo Spinazzi and
Francesco Carradori: a
path to Neoclassicism in
Early Lorraine-Era
Florence

4 pm
Luisa Sefora Rosaria Puca
Pre-Restoration Sculpture
in Naples, between Late-
Baroque Legacies and the
Neoclassical Impulse

4.30 pm
**Discussion and closing of
the conference**
Andrea Bacchi
Duccio K. Marignoli
Francesco Zagnoni

Evento ideato e promosso da



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