

Many urban projects realized during the *Ventennio* remain part of the Italian landscape and, together with architectural monuments and works of art, create a constellation of surviving images of Fascist visual culture in contemporary Italy. As part of the national cultural heritage these artefacts are protected by preservation laws. However, in the ambiguous process whereby Italy confronts its Fascist and colonial past, they have also become a nexus of critical debate and political struggle.

The conference focuses on the material history of Fascist-era works of art, monuments and architecture in Italy, and examines their afterlife and reception in the *longue durée*. In order to frame the contemporary debate, a transdisciplinary approach and a historical perspective will take as its starting point the iconoclasm following the Fall of the Regime (July 25th, 1943). Papers will explore the ambiguous transition from Fascism to the Republic and the dynamics of postwar censorship. Moreover, the critical examination of artistic historiography, together with the main narratives of the history of Italian art, aims to underline elements of continuity throughout the 20th century. It also permits a re-examination of the *damnatio memoriae* implicating some of the artists close to the Regime and the role played by private collections in the preservation and survival of Fascist-era works of art.

Probing the theoretical concept of 'difficult heritage' in relation to the peculiarities of the Italian case, and in a comparative perspective with other nations, the conference addresses issues of restoration, display, and critical preservation of Fascist-era artefacts located in public and institutional spaces. The event aims to foster a discussion open to different disciplines such as History, History of Architecture, Heritage Studies, Literature, Philosophy, and Anthropology, and to examine the potential contribution of Art History to the topic. Strategies of memorialization and the role of contemporary art interventions will be discussed in an open dialogue with artists focusing on political monuments and multilayered memories in public space.

Presentations will be held in English and Italian. The conference and the discussion are open to the public. No registration required. The project is made possible in part by the *Fellows' Project Fund* of the American Academy in Rome.

**CONCEPT AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION**  
CARMEN BELMONTE, 2019 Italian Fellow  
American Academy in Rome

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**IMAGE**

Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani,  
*Freedom of Movement*, 2018



**BIBLIOTHECA HERTZIANA**  
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**AMERICAN ACADEMY  
IN ROME**

## A Difficult Heritage The Afterlife of Fascist-Era Architecture, Monuments, and Works of Art in Italy

Conference

MARCH 11–12, 2019

**Bibliotheca Hertziana**

Villino Stroganoff · via Gregoriana 22, Rome

**American Academy in Rome**

AAR Lecture Room · via Angelo Masina 5, Rome



## Monday, March 11, 2019

- 10.00 am | **Welcome**  
TRISTAN WEDDIGEN, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome*
- 10.10 am | **Introduction**  
CARMEN BELMONTE, *American Academy in Rome*  
**Fascist-Era Artefacts in Italy: From Iconoclasm to Critical Preservation**
- 10.30 – 11.45 am | **Works of Art and Historiography**  
Chair PETER BENSON MILLER, *American Academy in Rome*  
GIULIANA PIERI, *Royal Holloway, University of London*  
**Fascism and the Arts: A Difficult Legacy**  
MICHELE DANTINI, *Università per Stranieri di Perugia/ IMT Scuola di Alti Studi, Lucca*  
**Religioni politiche. Amnesia e rimozione nella storia dell'arte italiana postbellica**
- 11.45 am | **Break**
- 12.00 am – 1.15 pm | **The Multiple Lives of Buildings**  
Chair LYNNE LANCASTER, *Ohio University/American Academy in Rome*  
ROSALIA VITTORINI, *Università degli Studi di Roma 'Torvergata'*  
**Architettura e fascismo: vita e destino delle opere per il regime**  
HANNAH MALONE, *Freie Universität Berlin*  
**Questioning the Idea of Italy's Fascist Architecture as Difficult Heritage**
- 1.15 pm | **Lunch**
- 2.15 – 3.45 pm | **Monumentality**  
Chair MARIA BREMER, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome*  
ANDREA PINOTTI, *Università degli Studi di Milano*  
**The Negation of the Monument. Contemporary Strategies of Memorialization**  
NINA FISCHER & MAROAN EL SANI, *Berlin*  
**Projection of *Freedom of Movement*, short film, 2018**
- 4.30 – 5.30 pm | **On-site visit to *L'Italia tra le Arti e le Scienze* by Mario Sironi (speakers only)**  
with ELIANA BILLI, *Sapienza, Università degli Studi di Roma*

## Tuesday, March 12, 2019

- 10.00 am | **Welcome**  
JOHN OCHSENDORF, *American Academy in Rome*
- 10.15 – 12.45 am | **From Fascism to the Republic**  
Chair CARMEN BELMONTE, *American Academy in Rome*  
ESTER COEN, *Independent scholar, Rome*  
**Corrado Cagli 1935 Race of the Barber Horses: Restoring and Interpreting**  
JOSHUA ARTHURS, *West Virginia University*  
**Revolutionary Iconoclasm and *Damnatio Memoriae* after the Fall of Mussolini**
- 11.45 am | **Break**
- 12.00 – 12.45 am | **FRANCO BALDASSO, Bard College, New York/American Academy in Rome**  
**Fear of Freedom. Carlo Levi and Alberto Savinio on the Legacy of Fascism in Early Postwar Italy**
- 1.00 pm | **Lunch**
- 2.00 – 3.15 pm | **Politics of Memory**  
Chair JIM CARTER, *University of Michigan/American Academy in Rome*  
FLAMINIA BARTOLINI, *Cambridge Heritage Research Centre, University of Cambridge*  
**From Iconoclasm to Heritage: Mussolini's Legacy, Display and Politics in Contemporary Italy**  
LIZA CANDIDI T. C., *Humboldt-Universität Berlin/Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca*  
**Architettura e arte monumentale pubblica. Politiche di memoria, le due Germanie e il post-89**
- 3.15 pm | **Break**
- 3.30 – 4.45 pm | **Political Monuments and Contemporary Art**  
Chair LINDSAY HARRIS, *Independent scholar, Rome*  
ALESSANDRO GALLICCHIO, *TELEMM, Aix-Marseille Université*  
**Relations Between Italian Architectural Modernism and Contemporary Art in Tirana (Albania) through the Prism of the 'Unwanted Heritage'**  
KARYN OLIVIER, *Tyler School of Art, Temple University/American Academy in Rome*  
**Witness**
- 4.45 pm | **Discussion**
- 6.00 pm | **Conversations/Conversazioni**  
**Are Monuments History?**  
DELL UPTON, *UCLA, Los Angeles/American Academy in Rome*  
ADACHIARA ZEVI, *architect, art historian, the president of Fondazione Bruno Zevi*