

# Summer School

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Date

**2019**

Location

**Roma**

Istituto Svizzero



## Summer School at Istituto Svizzero, Rome

For the second time at Villa Maraini—headquarter of the Istituto Svizzero in Rome— we have hosted the project *Summer Schools*. Five groups of researchers, selected through a call and coming from universities and schools of higher education, have met for one week—from July to early September—to work on a multidisciplinary project often linked to the city and its cultural heritage. This offers an opportunity to get to know the various cultural, artistic and scientific activities of the Swiss academic institutions.

Istituto Svizzero hosts, through a competitive selection, researchers from universities and schools of higher education, which promote complementarity and permeability between different types of institutions. Students test a transdisciplinary approach for a week in Rome.

The initiative is in line with Istituto Svizzero's mission to take an active role in facilitating scientific and artistic exchange between Switzerland and Italy. It provides an open platform that enables different fields of research and expertise to discuss and reflect upon matters of consequence in a malleable setting that is tailored to the needs of the partner institutions. Cross-disciplinary dialogue, art-science exchange as well as the generation-spanning interchange between senior researchers and students are cornerstones of the Summer Schools project, crossing the boundaries of not only countries and institutions but also disciplines and individual minds. The goal is to offer a setting able to provoke further initiatives and projects, to produce ideas and knowledge.

For the 2019 edition the following Universities and schools of higher education have been selected: Campus Muttensz – Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Institut Kunst – Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (HGK FHNW), SUPSI – Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana, and EDHEA Valais School of Arts – HES-SO, and Università della Svizzera italiana and University of Geneva, offering their students the opportunity to continue and develop their research and activities in Italy in various fields of interest and study, such as architecture, cinema, philosophy or graphic design. Their public events have also taken place at Villa Maraini.

This programme is born out of collaboration between the Istituto Svizzero and swissuniversities.

# Learning from Rome – eine städtebaulich-architektonische Studie zum verdichteten Wohnen

Rome

07.07.2019-14.07.2019

A project by Campus Muttenz – Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW)

In the centrally located Flaminio neighbourhood, three buildings and two squares form a compact social housing ensemble. Resulting from a 1920's Roman housing programme, the scheme shows intriguing architectural and urban qualities, where generous open spaces balance the densely built multi-dwelling buildings.

The Summer School participants first documented the ensemble by means of drawings, to establish a strong base for further mapping with the support of Urban historian Harald R. Stühlinger (FHNW) and Architect Susanne Vécsey (FHNW).

Simultaneously, architecture photographer Giaime Meloni accompanied them during an atmospheric and photographic interpretation of the site. Drawing on these graphic and image-based surveys, graphic designer Philomène Hoël conceptually and technically supported the participants in producing a short publication of their research. Intertwining urban design and architecture, photography as well as graphic design was the methodological approach of the Summer School, the main aim of which was to allow for new points of view of the ensemble by raising critical questions.

All participants were accommodated in the unique Villa Maraini, home of the Swiss Institute in Rome, where they were able to work and set out from to encounter the Eternal City.

## Public programme

12.07.2019 H17:30

Villa Maraini

Category: Architecture

On the occasion of the Summer School “Learning from Rome”—A project by Campus Muttenz – Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW)—international students have engaged with an urban ensemble in the Flaminio quarter. An intense week of field work and analysis led to an interpretation of the ICP Flaminio II complex. Following the interesting findings of the students about this concrete case study the panel discussion opened up to the topics of urban density and resilience on a general level.

Panel discussion with:

**Paola Guarini**, Architect and researcher at Department of Architecture, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy

**Victoria Easton**, Associate Christ & Gantenbein, Basel and researcher ETH, Zurich, Switzerland

**Luca Reale**, Assistant Professor at Department of Architecture, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy

**Harald R. Stühlinger**, Professor for the History of Architecture and Urban Design, FHNW Muttenz, Switzerland

# The Rare Ability to Become Ocean. A Method for Ocean Literacy

Rome

14.07.2019-21.07.2019

A project by Institut Kunst – Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (HGK FHNW)

The Question of Nature has been placed at the core of the Art Institute's curricula in Basel since already more than three years. We became aware that the questions related to Nature and those on Gender contain interchangeable notions in many respects. For this reason, the Summer School invited special guests to its seminars such as scientists, philosophers and artists, who were capable of creating a context where nature issues as well as climate related topics could be addressed together with the rise of social movements. Historically social justice and natural justice were different categories. This has contributed to the general perception that we could prioritize one over the other. But also, the way we advocate for awareness, change and the rights of nature has been using far too much the form of a patriarchal order: "Save the Ocean"! This reveals a hierarchy over the elements as well as the acknowledgement that the Ocean cannot save itself from us. To analyze all these premises helped the students develop a new language and method to contribute to incorporate Ocean literacy in this Summer School in Rome.

The goal of this Summer School was to understand the research conducted in the deep sea and to respond to the questions by creating a situation where you could convey this through art.

## **Public programme**

19.07.2019 H18:00

Villa Borghese

Category: Art, Music, Performance

On the occasion of the Summer School "The Rare Ability to Become Ocean – A Method for Ocean Literacy" the Institut Kunst – Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (HGK FHNW) presents an oceanic picnic with sound, voice, performances, a special picnic blanket, food, drinks, and more.

The picnic takes place in a setting created by the students of the Art Institute in Basel and the Luiss University in Rome as a part of this year's Summer School "The Rare Ability to Become Ocean – A method for Ocean literacy" at Istituto Svizzero, Rome.

# Stucchi e stuccatori ticinesi a Roma. Dalla riscoperta cinquecentesca alla grande tradizione barocca

Rome

28.07.2019-03.08.2019

A project by SUPSI – Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana

Obiettivo della Summer School è stato fare acquisire ai partecipanti strumenti metodologici e conoscenze pratiche per affrontare in modo multidisciplinare lo studio degli apparati decorativi in stucco. Sono state analizzate opere fondamentali per la conoscenza dell'attività degli stuccatori "ticinesi" a Roma che – arrivati nell'Urbe come scalpellini o capomastri – si sono impossessati di questa particolare tecnica artistica facendola diventare per antonomasia una peculiarità del territorio della Regione dei Laghi.

Le attività prevedano lo svolgimento di lezioni, centrate sugli aspetti metodologici, e visite a luoghi in cui è stato possibile osservare i dettagli tecnici e artistici dei cicli decorativi. Le visite in cantiere hanno consentito di discutere l'approccio storico, artistico, tecnico e scientifico necessario alla conoscenza di queste opere.

## Public programme

02.08.2019 H18:30

Villa Maraini

Interventi della prof.ssa **Claudia Conforti**, "L'eloquenza dell'architettura", e del prof. **Grégoire Extermann**, "Lo stucco all'incrocio tra le arti congeneri".

In occasione della Summer School "Stucchi e stuccatori ticinesi a Roma. Dalla riscoperta cinquecentesca alla grande tradizione barocca", un progetto di SUPSI – Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana, l'Istituto Svizzero ospiterà gli interventi della prof.ssa Claudia Conforti (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), "L'eloquenza dell'architettura", e del prof. Grégoire Extermann (Université de Genève), "Lo stucco all'incrocio tra le arti congeneri".

La doppia conferenza, aperta al pubblico, costituisce l'evento conclusivo della Summer School, ideata con il proposito di offrire a studenti e giovani ricercatori strumenti metodologici e conoscenze pratiche per affrontare in modo multidisciplinare lo studio degli apparati decorativi in stucco realizzati a Roma tra il XVI e XVII secolo e in larga parte eseguiti da maestranze provenienti dall'attuale Canton Ticino.

In linea con i temi della Summer School, gli interventi avranno come oggetto lo stucco, indagato come materiale – con le sue peculiarità fisiche e le caratteristiche tecniche – e lo stucco come medium, elemento costitutivo dei sistemi architettonici e di quelli decorativi, praticato tanto da scultori e da pittori, quanto da professionisti specializzati.

Affrontando problematiche storiografiche e riflettendo sul funzionamento dei cantieri – da Raffaello a Giorgio Vasari, e nei secoli successivi – verranno esplorate le molteplici potenzialità dello stucco, caratteristiche che ne hanno fatto una risorsa ineludibile per la progettazione architettonica e per l'esecuzione di apparati decorativi, offrendo agli artisti una felice via di accesso alla formazione e alla produzione artistico-architettonica.

# Devenir fleuve: catastrophes liquides et récits spéculatifs

Rome

25.08.2019-01.09.2019

A project by EDHEA Valais School of Arts – HES-SO

A collaboration between: EDHEA – Ecole de design et haute école d'art du Valais, The Faculty for Italian Culture and Society, -University of St Gallen, Accademia di Belle Arti, L'Aquila

In 1962, J. G. Ballard imagined a “drowned world” as a result of global warming. The temperature in the Equator is 180°C, the ice caps have collapsed and Europe is breaking into an archipelago of lagoons. A group of scientists is trying to map the surviving nature in a submerged London city. Artificial lakes, multiple waterfalls and liquid platforms occupy the urban space following the failures of “synchronization” between the rhythm of industrial modernity and that of imperfect nature.

In the era of climate emergencies, the violence of exceptional floods and inundations, the disruption of dams and the creation of artificial lakes punctuate current events and raise the need to revisit and anticipate scenarios of past and future water overflows through aesthetic and scientific investigation. Looking at environmental history, natural sciences, Italian Studies and contemporary artistic practices, the Summer School Becoming a river: liquid disasters and speculative narratives aimed at questioning the memory and present tense of water-related disasters in order to develop future scenarios. The Summer School's discussions and common activities were fed by an initial study day, walks, an ongoing video screening program, shared readings and group discussions/work.



# Time, Time, Time: Science, Art & Philosophy (Part II)

Rome

01.09.2019–08.09.2019

Un projet by Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) and University of Geneva

The summer school is the continuation of our previous summer school “Time Time Time: Science, Art and Philosophy (Part I)”, that was a great success last year. As an ideal continuation it had the same structure: it looked at time from the perspectives of science, art and philosophy, thus expanding the focus of the school to include different special sciences (e.g. biology, psychology, neuro-science) and different forms of artistic expression (visual arts, cinema), together with sciences and artistic forms already explored the previous year (namely, physics and literature).

## Time Travel

Time travel is one of the most fascinating areas of contemporary inter-disciplinary research. On the one hand, contemporary physics, especially relativistic physics, seems to allow for models in which time-travel is physically possible. On the other hand, time-travel presents many conceptual and logical difficulties. If time-travel is possible, could we change the past? If I were to go back in time, could I kill my grandparents, thus preventing me to time-travel in the first place? If time-travel will ever be possible, how come we have not met any future-time travellers yet? Or have we? Contemporary neuro-science has dedicated a great deal of attention to a related phenomenon, called mental time-travel, that consists roughly in the capacity to stretch one's imagination to comprehend more or less long temporal intervals. Finally, literature and visual arts [cinema, photography] have been long fascinated by the possibility and the consequences of time-travel. H.G Wells's *The Time Machine* is widely considered to be a classic, and cinema has given us memorable exploration of time travel scenarios in masterpieces like *Planet of the Apes*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Time Bandits*.

## Things in Time

Things persist through time, that is, they exist at more than one instant. But how do they do so? Common sense has it that things are extended in space, not in time. They are wholly present [as the saying goes] at each instant of their existence. But is this really the picture of things in time that science, or even art give us? It has been argued that physics favors a view according to which things such as ordinary chairs and tables are extended not only in space but in time as well. In that respect they are similar to events. As a matter of fact, some have insisted that things are just “boring events” [a memorable expression]. Biology seems to confirm the picture. Individual biological units as well as entire species are better understood as entities that spread out across time. The literature of the last century seems to have come round to the same conclusion. It is part and parcel of the very poetic of two of the greatest writers of the last century, Marcel Proust and Samuel Beckett, that things literally extend through different epochs, even centuries. When things persist in time, they do persist through change. Persistence through change brings about all sorts of questions. Can something survive all kinds of change? For example, can a person become an insect as Gregor Samsa in Kafka's *Metamorphosis*? Some things can survive gradual changes. But what about radical ones? Is the Hamlet of the fifth act really the same person as the Hamlet in the first four acts of the tragedy? Particular things such as works of art complicate the matter. Is Michelangelo's Moses in S. Pietro in Vincoli the same statue, the same work of art after the massive restoration it went through?

## Time and Action

The issues mentioned so far, and more in general issues about time, are inextricably entangled with a practical dimension. Time travel in the future seems to entail that the future exists. How could you get somewhere if it did not exist? But, if the future exists, in what sense, if any, am I free to act? Is free-will just an illusion? If this were the case, what would be the consequences for e.g. moral responsibility? There is an important artistic trope that is closely related to the philosophical notion of free-will [or lack thereof] namely Destiny, and related notions such as fate and vocation. These notions have been a constant landmark throughout Western thought, from classic Greek tragedies to orthodox eschatology, from mechanistic philosophy of the enlightenment to romantic poetry, from early avant-garde movements to contemporary fiction.

## Public programme

07.09.2019 H15:00

Villa Maraini

On the occasion of the Summer School “Time After Time: Science, Art and Philosophy” – a project by Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) and the University of Geneva we will be screening *Edipo re* by Pier Paolo Pasolini.

At the same time artist **Dorine Aguerre**, invited by the Summer School, will present her in situ video installation *You should go there* (2019), which she has been working on for the entire week.

## Programme

H15:00 Screening of Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Edipo re*, o.v. Italian with English subtitles (1967, 104 )

H17:00 Discussion

H19:00 Closing Remarks