

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Istituto Svizzero



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this report demonstrates, Istituto Svizzero continues to play a distinctive role at the intersection of art, science, and research. Its transdisciplinary approach, its presence in Rome, Milan, and Palermo, and its strong ties to Swiss and international partners enable it to foster dialogue across disciplines and geographies. In a time marked by profound societal, technological, and environmental transformations, such spaces for exchange and critical reflection are more important than ever.

What remains particularly striking is the vibrant atmosphere that defines Istituto Svizzero's activities on the ground. Public events in Rome and Milan bring together a broad and diverse audience—curious, engaged, and open to dialogue—across disciplines and perspectives. It is truly remarkable to witness and experience the unique atmosphere of these gatherings: moments where artistic exploration, scientific inquiry, and social exchange converge in a spirit that is intellectually stimulating.

The achievements of 2025 are remarkable. A rich public programme, a dynamic residency platform welcoming Fellows from diverse backgrounds, and a growing network of collaborations all testify to the vitality and relevance of the institution. Particularly noteworthy is the continued development of formats that connect artistic and scientific inquiry, opening new ways of understanding the challenges of our time.

At the heart of Istituto Svizzero lies its commitment to emerging researchers and artists, and to audiences in Italy and beyond. The residency programmes offer not only time and space for research, but also a unique environment for exchange, experimentation, and the creation of lasting connections.

In 2025, Istituto Svizzero concluded new multi-year subsidy agreements with

its institutional partners, defining the framework for the next four years. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) for their continued trust, their committed support, and the constructive and forward-looking dialogue we are constantly renewing. This close collaboration is essential to the development of Istituto Svizzero. At the same time, the support of private partners has enabled the realization of additional projects, further enriching the programme and expanding its reach.

The year 2025 marks both continuity and renewal for Istituto Svizzero. It is a privilege to address you for the first time in my capacity as President, following the handover at the end of June from Mario Annoni, who led the institution with dedication, vision, and great commitment over more than eight fruitful years. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for his outstanding service and his lasting contribution to the development and success of Istituto Svizzero.

Such moments of renewal are both natural and necessary: they invite us to reflect on our mission, to reaffirm our values, and to bring new perspectives into a shared endeavour.

Looking ahead, our responsibility is to consolidate these achievements while remaining open to change. We must continue to support excellence, encourage risk-taking, and strengthen the bridges between disciplines, cultures, and generations. In doing so, Istituto Svizzero will remain a place where ideas can be tested, perspectives broadened, and futures imagined. I look forward to shaping its next chapter together.

Hedy Graber
President of the Foundation Board

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Istituto Svizzero continued its transdisciplinary approach with a public programme bringing together 41,800 participants for a wide variety of events and activities in the humanities and arts, introducing new audiences and offering collective reflection on the current state of the world and its geopolitical affairs. Discussions focused for instance on both the local and global impact of our digitalized lifestyles or food habits, while seeking to nurture original and innovative visions for the future.

The positive audience reception confirms the renewed interest in our artistic and scientific proposals in Italy, like the collective exhibition in Rome *Con lo zucchero in bocca* dedicated to sugar through the history of its production and the exploitation of resources. The exhibition engaged more than 10,000 visitors and responded to the art & science and scientific conferences, like our annual *Dispute, What's on your Plate?* on the future of food, exploring perspectives of science and innovation in the agri-food and agri-technology sectors.

Istituto Svizzero welcomed 31 Fellows in the three cities—Rome, Milan, and Palermo—through six different residency programmes for Fellows and Senior Fellows. The Fellows pursued their work in a stimulating environment conducive to research, exploration, networking, and transdisciplinary interchange. Two Summer Schools took place in Rome and Palermo, involving cross-disciplinary architecture and archeology projects from several Swiss Universities.

As part of the 2025 digitisation project, on the one hand, a collaboration has been launched with the Roman cultural institution Palazzo delle Esposizioni to create a database of digitised materials relating to 25 exhibitions by Swiss artists held in Rome between 1951 and 1999. On the other hand, institutional archiving activities have been consolidated, with a total of 9,155 documents now included in our repository. Our digital presence/ media has been consolidated with the continued growth of Istituto Svizzero's digital reach and audience engagement.

As you will learn from this report, our fellowships and residencies expanded the transdisciplinary scope of Istituto Svizzero, with more talks, activities, collaborations bringing new perspectives on ongoing international and national conversations within the academic and artistic scenes.

Joëlle Comé
Director



RESIDENCIES

The transdisciplinary residencies ran throughout the year, gaining visibility through *I Pomeriggi*: the individual events curated by our Fellows at a steady pace. These special evenings were very well received by the public, with a total of 1,156 participants coming to discover their artistic or scientific projects across the three cities.

The final event, *Perfino le cose vogliono essere chiamate*, organised in June in Rome with the Italian curator Cecilia Canziani (Curator of Italian Pavillion in Venice Biennial 2026), showcased the Fellows' work and research to a diverse audience of professionals, regulars and curious visitors, bringing together over 900 people.

The new academic year began in late September with the presentation of all the new 2025/2026 Fellows and their projects for Rome, Milan and Palermo. The evening brought together professionals invited specifically to forge useful connections between the various residencies and concluded with an open-air concert enjoyed by a large audience.

The introductory research trip to Palermo helped to bring together all the Fellows from the three cities. They were able to attend an evening of performances organised at the Palermo Botanical Garden, as an additional opportunity to engage with the local scene.

A series of studio visits for the artists took place in the spring, enabling the Rome Fellows to network locally and internationally and expand their professional contacts whilst deepening their respective research. Study trips, workshops and visits organised for our Fellows covered a variety of themes and disciplines, ranging from study trips to Genoa and Torino to visits exploring Bureaucratic Monuments (Ministeries) with local architects and researchers in Rome.

The new call for applications for the *Roma / Milano / Palermo Calling* residency programmes attracted 120 applicants, leading to the selection of a multi-disciplinary community of 2025/2026 Fellows with great potential (2 postdocs, 8 PhD candidates, 9 Master's students in art), including 6 visual artists, a filmmaker, a performer, a curator, a designer, a musician and a visual/ culinary artist, all of whom have participated in international events or have already won awards in Switzerland. In Milan, a filmmaker and a historian of circus culture shared the residency. In Palermo, a medieval historian and a designer took advantage of the classical residency at Palazzo Butera. The young curator in residence at Palazzo Branciforte and the Art and Science duo (Architecture/Visual Art-Performance) at the Fondazione Sant'Elia have further expanded our transdisciplinary community of Fellows in Sicily. In Rome, the *On Forests* residency brought together a musician from Madagascar and a Swiss visual artist, offering new exchanges with the Villa Maraini's community.

The 2025 selection of high-potential researchers and artists was based on the excellence of the applications, many of whom are recipients of federal grants and have embarked on promising careers. During their residencies, several artists organised exhibitions, interventions or concerts in Switzerland and even internationally.

The Senior Fellowship programme welcomed eight prominent figures, including professors, researchers, authors and artists such as Dorothee Elmiger, who received the Swiss Literature Prize after her residency, or Nenad Stojanovic in the field of political science. All Senior Fellows played an active role in the life of Istituto Svizzero and engaged in daily exchanges with the Fellows in Rome.

FELLOWS 2024/2025

ROMA CALLING

Vittorio Brodmann	Visual arts	Berlin / Basel
Maria Silvia D'Avolio	Architecture	ZHAW Zurich
Clara Delorme	Dance	Lausanne
Angela Gigliotti	Architecture	ETH Zurich
Selin Gür	Archaeology	University of Bern
Alexander Kamber	Cultural studies	University of Zurich
Hunter Longe	Visual arts	Geneva
Noha Mokhtar	Visual arts	Zurich
Alessandro Pecoraro	Literature	University of Fribourg
Domenico Singha Pedroli	Film, Visual arts	Lugano / Paris / Bangkok
Luca Piccoli	Architecture	USI Università Svizzera Italiana
Julian Pollina	Music	Zurich
Niccolò Savaresi	Archaeology	University of Basel
Ambra Viviani	Visual arts	Naples / Basel

MILANO CALLING

Silvia Balzan	Architecture	Accademia di Mendrisio (USI)
Nina Kerschbaumer	Film	Zurich

ON FORESTS

Antsa Arimalala	Sound, Visual arts	Madagascar
Alexandra Baumgartner	Visual arts	Biel

FELLOWS 2025/2026

ROMA CALLING

Sultan Çoban	Performance, Visual arts	Basel / Zurich / Amsterdam
Alexis Di Santolo	Archaeology	University of Geneva
Isabella Foglia	Art history	University of Zurich
Paul Hutzli	Visual arts	Geneva
margaretha jüngling	Cooking, Visual arts	Zurich
Amelia Juri	Literature	University of Lausanne
Viola Leddi	Visual arts	Geneva
Tobias Oswald	History	University of Basel
Caterina Schorer	Ancient studies	University of Zurich / Heidelberg
Gabriel Stöckli	Sound, Visual arts	Milan / Ticino
Cinzia Tuena	History	University of Basel
Jacopo Zani	Architecture, Urban studies	ETH Zurich
Eva Zornio	Performance, Visual arts	Geneva

MILANO CALLING

Juli Sando	Film, Performance	Geneva
Tania Simili	Circus History and Culture	University of Lausanne

PALERMO CALLING

Maximiliane Berger	Medieval history	University of Basel
Dimitri Reist	Design	Berne

PALERMO CALLING CURATOR

Danniel Tostes	Curating	Geneva
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PALERMO CALLING ART & SCIENCE

Quirin Streuli (Hotel Regina)	Performance	Basel
Alba Balmaseda	Architecture	Roma Tre University

BIOGRAPHIES



Vittorio Brodmann (1987) is an artist living and working in Berlin and Basel. In his work, he is interested in the comedy of human relationships, experimental forms of storytelling, and nonsense. He completed his studies at HEAD – Genève. In recent years, his work has been exhibited at the Kunsthalle Zurich, Kunstraum Schwaz, Kunstverein Nürnberg, and Kunsthalle Bern. In Rome, he explored various painting collections to analyze the narrative logic of religious or mythological imagery, in anticipation of a new painting production.



Maria Silvia D'Avolio (1985) is a postdoctoral researcher in Architecture at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). Her research analyzes intersecting inequalities from a feminist perspective, in the fields of architecture and the social sciences. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Sussex. Between 2016 and 2022, she taught sociology, criminology, and gender studies at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton. She has been a member of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) since 2022. In Rome, she focused on the role of female architects between 1960 and 1980, analyzing the impact of their political beliefs on their architectural projects and theoretical thinking.



Clara Delorme (1997) is a dancer and choreographer based in Lausanne. In her projects, she creates monochromatic spaces and characters that inhabit them. In 2020, she won the PREMIO award for her work *Malgrés*, and in 2022, she was selected for the Swiss Dance Days with her piece *L'albâtre*. In 2023, she won the Label + Romand. She co-founded Arts_sainement, an association fighting discrimination and abuse in the performing arts, and LIEU COMMUN, a research residency and meeting place in Lausanne. In Rome, she worked on a new choreography, starting from the relationship between color and space.



Hunter Longe (1985) is an artist living and working in Geneva. In his work, he experiments with modeling techniques and creates his own blends of plaster, cement, magnetic sand, various sediments, and lime. He earned a degree in Visual Arts from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and a master's in Visual Arts from the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. In 2021, he won the Swiss Art Awards. His work has recently been exhibited in group and solo shows at Kunsthaus Langenthal; Last Tango, Zurich; Istituto Svizzero, Rome; Krone Couronne, Biel/Bienne; Centre d'art Contemporain Genève; Musée Cantonal de Géologie, Lausanne; NoMoon, New York. In Rome, he explored the self-repairing capabilities of the Ancient Roman concrete to integrate it into his artistic practice.



Noha Mokhtar (1987) is an artist and anthropologist living and working between Zurich, Cairo, and the United States. Her artistic practice includes photography, video, installations, and writing, taking a critical approach to the concepts of culture, family, gender, and power. She holds a master's degree from ECAL and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in anthropology at Harvard University. She is a co-founder of Edition Hors-Sujet, an interdisciplinary publishing initiative based in Zurich. Her project *A House Back Home* features four houses built by Swiss families with immigrant backgrounds and explores the link between architecture, identity, and migration, focusing on four countries: Kosovo, Italy, Portugal, and Egypt. In Rome, she focused on the part of the project involving Switzerland and Italy.



Alessandro Pecoraro (1988) is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Fribourg. His main area of interest is Italian literature between the 18th and early 19th centuries, with a focus on the Italian-Greek writer Ugo Foscolo. He studied in Florence, where he earned an international Ph.D. (Florence-Paris-Bonn) in philology, Italian literature, and linguistics. In Rome, he studied the activities of the collector and Foreign Ministry official Domenico Bianchini (1835-1919) and the connections between collecting and Italian foreign policy between the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Angela Gigliotti (1986) is an architect and educator. She is a Distinguished Postdoc Fellow HM Queen Margrethe II at the Danish Academy in Rome and is affiliated with ETH Zurich/gta. She is currently conducting research in the field of architectural history, with the aim of working on a monographic thesis entitled *Italian Ticinification (TI-IT): Construction, Financing, and Promotion of Proximal Swiss Coloniality from Ticino to the Kingdom of Italy (1857-1947)*. She holds a master's degree in architecture from the Polytechnic University of Milan and a Ph.D. in architecture from the Aarhus School of Architecture. In Rome, she pursued a case study on the architectonic, economic, and social history of the construction of Villa Maraini, as a key example of intercultural and transnational Italian-Swiss architecture.



Selin Gür (1992) is a postdoctoral researcher and assistant at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Bern. She holds a master's degree in classical archaeology from the University of Istanbul and in settlement archaeology from the Middle East Technical University (METU). She obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Bern, focusing on domestic architecture and identity in the Cilicia region. In Rome, her research centered on examining the effects of natural disasters on the architecture and settlements in Lipari, Sicily, spanning from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the Roman Imperial Period.



Alexander Kamber (1995) is a doctoral researcher in the field of Cultural Analysis at the University of Zurich. His SNSF research project (doc.ch) examines the relationship between bodies and their environments in modern body culture, such as dance, theatre, gymnastics, and body therapy. He holds a master's degree in Cultural Studies with a specialization in Philosophy and History from Leuphana University of Lüneburg. In 2023, he was a visiting researcher (Performance & Gender Studies) at mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. His current novel "Nachtblaue Blumen" was published by Limmat Verlag in 2024. In Rome, he examined the dance experiments of the early Italian Futurist movement with a particular focus on their environmental knowledge.



Domenico Singha Pedroli (1994) is a filmmaker, artist, and architect based in Lugano, Paris, and Bangkok. With a multicultural and multidisciplinary approach, his works articulate complex narratives that explore the theme of traces and identity in all their mutability. Trained in architecture at USI and in visual arts at Le Fresnoy – Studio national, he has developed a sensitivity to photography, cinema, video art, and VR. His work has recently been exhibited at Visions du Réel, Louvre-Lens, Bangkok, Beijing, and Busan. In Rome, he developed the transdisciplinary project *Mythopoiesis*, which aims to provide a critical and contemporary reading of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, expanding the reflection on the potential of mythopoeia as a creative act, combining it with the evolution of forgotten places in the city.



Luca Piccoli (1996) is an architect and SNSF Ph.D. student in museology at the Università della Svizzera Italiana, jointly with Sapienza University of Rome. His research explores the founding of the first public museums in Rome through the eyes and experiences of those involved in designing exhibition spaces. He earned his master's degree from the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio and completed his training with professional experience in Paris in urban planning and the design of public spaces (Obras architectes, TVK). In Rome, he continued his research on the origins and development of the city's museums during the European Grand Tour, focusing on the role of those responsible for configuring exhibition spaces and the influence of the public on display choices.



Julian Pollina (1993), alias FABER, is a musician who released his first songs in German in 2015 under the songwriter's name of Faber. Since then, he has become known in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland for his sharp lyrics. Two EPs and four albums constitute the core of his discography, drawing on influences from Balkan folk and chanson, while clearly falling within the German-language music scene, of which he is a recognized and relevant part. In Rome, Julian Pollina immersed himself in the Roman music scene and developed an album in Italian, in close collaboration with local musicians.



Niccolò Savaresi (1995) is a researcher in classical archaeology at the University of Basel. His field of study concerns the spread of Attic pottery in the Mediterranean. Since 2022, he has been participating in the annual excavations of the Enotrian necropolis of Macchiabate in Calabria. His previous archaeological training took place mainly in Italy (Trento, Bologna) and at various European sites (France, UK, Greece). In Rome, he continued his research, focusing on the commercial ties between Athens and the Hellenic populations of southern Italy.



Ambra Viviani (1993) is an artist living and working between Naples and Basel. Her research focuses on the de/reconstruction of the language of love through auditory situations prefigured by aphasic personality-objects. She holds an MFA from the Institut Kunst in Basel and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the ZHdK in Zurich. In 2020, she founded the project space *Giulietta* in Basel. In 2019, she was in residence in Hangzhou, in 2018 in Berlin at the Akademie der Kunst, and in 2017 at the Tropical Lab in Singapore. In Rome, she continued her doctoral thesis by working on a radio drama about love, exploring private collections, the Archivio Luce, and Rai Teche.



Silvia Balzan (1985) is an architect and postdoctoral researcher at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio (USI). Her research focuses on the expansion of the Milan underground from the 1950s to the 1990s, analyzing the urbanistic implications of changes made to the master plan in the 1970s. She holds a master's degree from IUAV in Venice and a Ph.D. from the University of Basel, furthermore, she was a research assistant at ETH in Zurich. In Milan, she continued her research on the subway as a lens through which to study Milan from the post-war period to Tangentopoli in the 1990s, exploring urban, architectural, socio-economic, and political aspects.



Nina Kerschbaumer (1988) is a filmmaker based in Zurich. Her research focuses on the relationship between political, media, economic spaces, and criminal/terrorist acts. She holds a bachelor's degree in visual arts and a Ph.D from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. After teaching and conducting research at ZHdK, she manages a section of the Rote Fabrik cultural center in Zurich, where she primarily focuses on cinema. In Milan, she developed a film that stages the bombing of December 16, 1969, using reenactment scenes, documentary images of the city, and archival materials with the aim of finding an alternative form of narration for these attacks.



Antsa Arimalala (1992), also known as Encoder Experiment, is a unique artist on the Malagasy contemporary music scene, composing and performing electronic music by using the creative software Ableton Live. He plays Synthwave, a musical and artistic genre inspired by Western culture in the 1980s. Encoder Experiment also explores the sounds of Madagascar, including sounds coming from local communities, for experimental projects. In 2023, he won the Art and Biodiversity competition for cultural projects with his *Origins* project, a sound exploration in the Vohimana Reserve to create an EP (extended play) album of four songs. In 2024, he was hosted by Projet Ony, an association founded by the French artist Orelsan, to continue his sound exploration in southern Madagascar.



Alexandra Baumgartner (1991) is an artist based in Biel/Bienne. She uses various forms of storytelling while building on photography as a key tool within her research-led practice. Her latest works expand on sound, gardening, sculpture, public walks and food in response to a multifaceted world of intra-actions between plants and humans. Alexandra Baumgartner received her BA in Camera Arts from the Lucerne School of Art and she is currently studying for her MA in Social Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Bern. Currently Alexandra is developing *Seed Carriers*, a transdisciplinary audio-documentary series and exhibition format on seed diversity and seed sovereignty.



Maximiliane Berger (1988) is a researcher and Ambizione Fellow with the SNSF, where she leads a project on economic coercion in the High Middle Ages. She studied History and Latin philology in Munich and public management in London. Her doctoral dissertation at the University of Münster analyzes the concept of "rule without decision-making" in medieval politics. From 2019 to 2024, she was a research assistant at the University of Basel. In Palermo, she examined the economic and political conditions of Sicily in the late 12th century, with a particular focus on the embargo imposed against the English in Messina in 1190-91.



Dimitri Reist (1986) is a multidisciplinary designer and researcher based in Bern and Brussels. His practice focuses on questions of responsibility and value-making in design, while creating space for alternative narratives. He critically reflects on the conditions in which cultural practitioners live and how these circumstances influence their daily practice. He holds a BA from HKB Bern and a MA from the St. Lucas School of Arts in Antwerp. His project *The Music is the Making of the Music* received the Swiss Design Award in 2023 and the SDN Grant in 2022. He is a member of the NCCFN collective (receiver of the Swiss Design Award 2024) and co-founder of the studio Bonsma & Reist. In Palermo, he explored the intersections between climate, migration, and the city's cultural history through interviews, film, and dialogue with local cultural practitioners.



Danniell Tostes (1996) is an independent curator based in Geneva. Their work focuses on emerging art practices, exploring storytelling and narratives that foster cross-cultural and transgenerational exchange. A significant part of their research is dedicated to documenting and archiving artists' practices through exhibitions and documentation, highlighting their power to shape the future by preserving and amplifying underrepresented narratives. They have collaborated with projects for FMAC Genève, Migros Museum, One Gee in Fog, Lovay Fine Arts, La Rada Locarno, Swiss Art Awards, Basel Social Club, and Pace Gallery. In Palermo, they collaborated with local artists to transform historical maps from the Fondazione Sicilia archives into contemporary works reflecting on migration, identity, and memory.



Hotel Regina (2016) is an art collective operating across art, design, and performance. **Alba Balmaseda Domínguez** (1985), architect and researcher, earned a PhD in architecture from Roma Tre University, focusing on urban bathing as a spatial practice. In Palermo, they developed a transdisciplinary project based on the mapping of the city's abandoned fountains, proposing performative interventions that investigate their current role and potential transformation into vibrant spaces of urban sociality.

FELLOWS' ACTIVITIES

I POMERIGGI

I Pomeriggi is a multidisciplinary event series curated by Istituto Svizzero Fellows. Based on their ongoing research, Fellows in residency in Rome, Milan, and Palermo develop events that are part of our public programme, fostering dialogue between art, science, and research. The series features various formats, often with external guests and partners, including conferences, seminars, performances, concerts, walks, and other initiatives.

Beyond Mechanization – Dance, Technology and Spiritism in the early 20th century

Rome
22.01.2025
Cultural studies
Curated by Alexander Kamber (Fellow Roma Calling)

The conference looked at how early 20th-century avant-garde artists combined body, technology, and spirituality in dance and performance. From esoteric practices to the Futurists, it examines how these experiments reshaped ideas about the human body and its cultural meanings.

To Be Etruscan, Go Greek

Rome
29.01.2025
Archaeology
Curated by Niccolò Savaresi (Fellow Roma Calling)

The workshop explored the influence of Greek culture on Etruscan identity by examining the dynamics of cultural exchange between Greeks and Etruscans through case studies on the adoption of Greek iconography in Etruria.

On Forests

► 1
Rome
28.02.2025
Environmental studies, Visual arts
Curated by Antsa Arimalala and Alexandra Baumgartner (Fellows Art & Science residency On Forests)

The presentation shared the outcomes of *On Forests*, the first collaborative residency between Istituto Svizzero and the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, through an audiovisual installation bringing together testimonies from Madagascar and Switzerland and reflecting on the value of forests and biodiversity conservation.

Mapping artistic mobility in Europe (18th and 19th Centuries): methods and perspectives in digital history

Rome / Online
19.03.2025
Architecture
Curated by Luca Piccoli (Fellow Roma Calling)

The seminar offered a shared reflection on the methods of cataloguing and analyzing sources in the study of cultural and artistic mobility in Europe between the 18th and 19th centuries.

Natural Disasters in an Archaeological Context

► 2
Rome / Online
04.04.2025
Archaeology
Curated by Selin Gür (Fellow Roma Calling)

The lecture reconstructed the memory of past natural disasters by combining modern geological data with archaeological methods, in order to understand their long-term impact on human mobility and societal change.

Building the Italian Ticinification

Rome / Online
11.04.2025
Architecture
Curated by Angela Gigliotti (Fellow Roma Calling)

The lecture launched Angela's research project titled *The Ticinization of Italy*, which theorizes the concept of "proximal coloniality", exploring the Swiss impact on Italy's built environment, from extractivism to real estate ventures.

In Motion – Crafting places for a multicultural cinematic practice

► 3
Rome
Villa Medici
30.04.2025
Film, Visual arts
Curated by Domenico Singha Pedrolì (Fellow Roma Calling)

An evening of experimental short film screenings and discussion moments among diverse filmmakers, offering an opportunity to explore the intimate connection between geography and authorship identity. With Giona A. Nazzaro, Ana Vaz, Eduardo Williams, and Domenico Singha Pedrolì.

Addio

► 4
Rome
09.05.2025
Music
Curated by Julian Pollina (Fellow Roma Calling)

Julian Pollina, known as Faber, after more than ten years on the music scene in the German-speaking area, developed a new repertoire in Italian during his residency in Rome, which premiered in the garden of Istituto Svizzero.

Slaked in curved light (Sazie, sgretolate nella luce curva)

► 5
Rome
Lateral Roma
16.05.2025
Visual arts
Curated by Hunter Longe (Fellow Roma Calling)

Event conceived within the context of the eponymous group exhibition curated by Hunter Longe at Lateral Roma, focusing on performative writing practices reflecting on mourning and death. With: Allison Grimaldi Donahue, Clovis Mailet, Andrea Mauti, and Filippo Lilli.

Una città giusta, non giusto una città

Rome
21.05.2025
Architecture
Curated by Maria Silvia D'Avolio (Fellow Roma Calling)

A roundtable dedicated to the theoretical and practical exploration of the effects of capitalist, patriarchal, and colonial practices on urban social reproduction, and the grassroots resistances to these practices, through interventions by Rome-based organisations.

Una su dieci

► 6
Rome
28.05.2025
Performance
Curated by Clara Delorme (Fellow Roma Calling)

A dance performance that examined the theme of incest from a systemic perspective, inviting the audience to share a moment of reflection on a topic that is often silenced.

Agg vist nu rummore

Rome
30.05.2025
Visual arts
Curated by Ambra Viviani (Fellow Roma Calling)

A listening session that explored forms of ambiguity, misalignment, and deception in auditory experience, focusing on the relationship between sound perception and the construction of the imaginary. Featuring works by Janna Graham, Adriene Lilly, Diego Marcon, Federico Pozuelo, Tommaso Massimiliano Alfi, and Ambra Viviani.

Saga – Mythology of Departure

► 7
Rome
11.06.2025
Visual arts
Curated by Noha Mokhtar (Fellow Roma Calling)

The screening of the film *Saga – Mythology of Departure* presented the outcome of a collaboration between Noha Mokhtar and Sahar Suliman, exploring the construction of individual and collective identities, senses of belonging, and familial claustrophobia.

«Con le ghirlande d'onorati versi». L'archivio e la biblioteca dell'Arcadia

Rome
Biblioteca Angelica
20.06.2025
Literature
Curated by Alessandro Pecoraro (Fellow Roma Calling)

The talk explored the history of the Accademia dell'Arcadia through manuscripts and other materials produced by its members over the course of its long history, guided by Maurizio Campanelli, custodian of the Academy.

I Pomeriggi a Palermo

► 8
Palermo
Radio Dopo, Ex Cinema Edison,
Palazzo Branciforte
09.–11.–12.12.2025
Radio Broadcast, Screening,
Talk, Workshop

Three events dedicated to exploring the work of the Fellows Palermo Calling through different formats, ranging from artistic to scientific research. The programme included a live broadcast on Radio Dopo by Alba Balmaseda & Hotel Regina (Fellows Palermo Calling Art & Science), a screening followed by a talk by Dimitri Reist (Fellow Palermo Calling) at the Plesso B. Albanese (former Cinema Edison), and a workshop led by Dannel Tostes (Fellow Palermo Calling Curator) at Palazzo Branciforte.

L'Ultima Notte

Milan
11.12.2025
Film
Curated by Nina Kerschbaumer (Fellow Milano Calling)

On the eve of the 56th anniversary of the Piazza Fontana massacre, the talk examined the lasting effects of fascism on current political dynamics through case studies drawn from history, cinema, and visual culture, with contributions by Sara Troglia, Inka Meißner, Davide Coppo, Diedrich Diederichsen, and Nina Kerschbaumer.

OPENING AND CLOSING RESIDENCIES EVENTS

Perfino le cose vogliono essere chiamate

► 9, 10, 13
Rome
26.06.2025
Installations, Music, Performance
Final event of the Roma Calling 2024/2025 residency
Curated by Cecilia Canziani

An evening of installations, performances, readings, and interventions that together form a multifaceted narrative, summarizing a year of research by the Fellow. The night concludes with a DJ set by TRYCE b2b D.U.G.

September Calling

► 11, 12
Rome
26.09.2025
Concerts, Presentation

Opening of the residencies with the presentation of the 2025/2026 Fellows of Roma, Milano, and Palermo Calling and live concerts with Dino Brandão, OY, and Mary Gehnyei.

On Forests Rome 1



In Motion – Crafting places for a multicultural cinematic practice Rome Villa Medici 3



Natural Disasters in an Archaeological Context Rome/Online 2



Addio Rome 4



Slaked in curved light (Sazia, sgretolata nella luce curva) Rome Lateral 5



Saga - Mythology of Departure Rome 7



Una su dieci Rome 6



I Pomeriggi a Palermo Palermo 8



Perfino le cose vogliono essere chiamate Rome 9



Perfino le cose vogliono essere chiamate Rome 10



September Calling Rome 11



September Calling Rome 12



FELLOWS' INSIGHTS

L'Istituto Svizzero rappresenta un'istituzione consolidata e nota nel panorama accademico romano. Già a partire dall'evento inaugurale di settembre alcuni studiosi mi hanno contattato per interesse verso le mie ricerche.

Non solo ho avuto l'opportunità di conoscere ricercatori con cui da tempo avrei voluto confrontarmi ma, in particolare, ho avuto modo di concordare un programma di mobilità presso Stanford University [...].

Luca Piccoli

Architecture | Roma Calling

In primo luogo, la cura e la disponibilità con cui il personale dell'Istituto si impegna nel rendere quanto più fruttuoso possibile il soggiorno dei residenti. Per quanto mi riguarda, ho percepito costantemente questo valore aggiunto nel corso dei dieci mesi trascorsi a Roma. Certamente queste caratteristiche dell'Istituto rendono sereno l'ambiente lavorativo e contribuiscono a individuare margini per un'ulteriore crescita professionale.

Alessandro Pecoraro

Literature | Roma Calling

[...] The opportunity for each of us to organize an event was exceptional in my case, and the Institute team was incredibly supportive and present throughout my project. The day trips, like the research trips, were amazing. A real gift, an opportunity to meet specialists and access small pieces of history, which also grounded us more deeply in Rome and in Italy [...].

Clara Delorme

Dance | Roma Calling

I built strong connections with the local artistic and academic community, which greatly enriched the project and opened new future collaborations. Overall, my experience with the residency programme was extremely positive. The time and space offered by the Istituto Svizzero allowed me to slow down, research in depth, and meaningfully connect with the local context in Palermo. I particularly valued the balance between independence and institutional support, which gave me the freedom to develop my project while always feeling accompanied when needed [...].

Danniel Tostes

Curator | Palermo Calling

Il *Pomeriggio* all'Istituto Svizzero è sicuramente stato il momento principale in cui ho potuto prendere contatto con persone attive nei miei stessi campi di indagine, ma anche gli altri eventi formali ed informali del periodo mi hanno permesso di conoscere ricercatori e ricercatrici con cui sarà possibile rimanere in contatto anche oltre la residenza.

Niccolò Savaresi

Archaeology | Roma Calling

I met many people from the art scene and a handful of international people. I had some important studio visits. I think at least one invitation for an upcoming exhibition came from one of these... I saw so many wonderfully inspiring things in and around Rome and during our various trips to Palermo, Torino and Genoa. I am proud of the Italian that I learned and all that I learned about the culture, history, and what I could get of the art scene both in Rome and in Italy at large. I really liked the transdisciplinary aspect [...]. I went on several outings to visit archeological sites [...] that were just so mind-opening and inspiring. This aspect of the residency is just wonderful and so enriching to the overall experience.

Hunter Longe

Visual arts | Roma Calling

Overall, the combination of dedicated research time, access to leading academic resources, and active participation in professional networks has made this residency an exceptionally productive and formative experience. I gained visibility through active participation in international conferences and through the *Pomeriggio* I organised with the support of the institute. These opportunities allowed me to present my research to broader academic audiences and to build connections with scholars working on related themes, strengthening my presence within the field.

Selin Gür

Archaeology | Roma Calling

Long study tours—everything was organized with an amazing attention opening doors in terms of locations, topics and debates that normally would have been closed to the most.

Angela Gigliotti

Architecture | Roma Calling

Sono contenta di aver avuto la possibilità di entrare in contatto con la diversità disciplinare, metodologica e teorica del programma e credo che ciò abbia influenzato positivamente il mio lavoro. [...] l'occasione del *Pomeriggio* e del reading durante l'evento finale mi ha permesso di entrare in contatto con diverse persone, sia del mondo accademico che dell'associazionismo, con cui probabilmente avrò l'opportunità di collaborare in futuro. Mi sono sentita molto supportata sia a livello individuale, nella possibilità di sviluppare il mio progetto, sia a livello di gruppo. L'organizzazione di eventi e viaggi, l'offerta di convenzioni (come, per esempio, la tessera per l'accesso ai musei o l'accesso al catalogo della Sapienza) e l'inclusione nel network delle accademie di Roma hanno reso questa esperienza collettiva e partecipata.

Maria Silvia D'Avolio

Architecture | Roma Calling

[...] my experience with the residency was strongly shaped by the high-intensity social environment—both from the Fellows and the events—as well as the strong presence of the Istituto Svizzero. This combination was, for the most part, rewarding and inspiring, yet at times felt overwhelming.

Domenico Singha Pedroli

Visual arts, Film | Roma Calling

SENIOR FELLOWS 2025

Istituto Svizzero offers—by invitation only—residencies in Rome to established artists and researchers for projects connected with Italy or of a transdisciplinary nature. The figures, invited for periods of one to three months, actively engage with the young Fellows of the *Roma Calling* programme.

Dimitri Bruni	Graphic design	Zurich
Dorothee Elmiger	Literature	Zurich
Anne-Christine Fornage	Law	University of Lausanne
Christine Lötscher	Literature / Media	University of Zurich
Sabine Meier	Photography	Le Havre, France
Ursula Meier	Film	Switzerland / Belgium
Monika Salzbrunn	Social Sciences / Religion	University of Lausanne
Nenad Stojanović	Political Science	University of Geneva



PROGRAMME

SCIENCE, RESEARCH, INNOVATION

The 2025 scientific programme structured around three internally developed series—*Dispute*, *Innovation*, and *Art & Science*—explored the intersections of creativity and technology, as well as food systems and environmental challenges, addressing these issues from a socio-political and interdisciplinary perspective.

Our *Dispute* series, *What's on Your Plate?*, organised in collaboration with the Swiss Permanent Mission to the UN in Rome and the ETH Zurich World Food System Center, addressed planetary health and sustainable diets from scientific and policy perspectives. Bringing together researchers, stakeholders, and industry representatives, the forum examined nutrition, food equity, ultra-processed foods, and the environmental impact of contemporary food systems. The programme culminated in a tasting session with the artistic duo Aterraterra, ETH researchers, and Italian agricultural producers, foregrounding the dialogue between science and artistic practice.

For the *Innovation* series, the transdisciplinary focus was accentuated further with an event dedicated to AI and the evolution of artistic creation. This event explored how artificial intelligence is reshaping artistic creation, creativity and education through workshops, panel discussions, and musical performances.

The programme further developed collaborations with Swiss universities and hosted a series of conferences addressing for instance infrastructures and heritage, ancient sanctuaries and their socio political roles, labour and coercion in comparative historical perspective, the diplomacy of cultural heritage, postwar architectural and engineering experimentation, and questions of bias in Digital Humanities research.

ART & SCIENCE

The *Art & Science* programme is thought in relation to the artistic programme and in particular this year to the collective exhibition *Con lo zucchero in bocca*. Several events addressed the cultural, historical, and political dimensions of food and consumable goods: *The Edible Institute II* examined the difficult heritage of plants and the colonial and fascist legacies embedded in agricultural practices through cultivation and performative inquiry, while *Sweet Extractivism* focused specifically on sugar and chocolate, analysing the entanglements of sweetness, extractivism, race, and environmental justice in global economic histories and contemporary consumption.

Alongside these, the ninth edition of the *Swiss Talks* series was dedicated to architecture and science, exploring the transformation of Alpine landscapes and contemporary Swiss architectural practices in the context of climate change and technological innovation. By addressing both the post-snow condition of mountain heritage and the relationship between digital fabrication and manual construction, the series investigated how architecture can respond critically to ecological and technological change.

The events curated by the 2024/2025 Fellows in the *I Pomeriggi* series reflect the diversity of the residencies and artistic and scientific practices at Istituto Svizzero. The Scientific Fellows, working at the intersection of archaeology, urban studies, and architectural history, drew in audiences interested in themes such as Niccolò Savaresi's examination of Greek influence on Etruscan identity, Maria Silvia d'Avolio's analysis of urban social reproduction and grassroots resistance in *A just city, not just a city*, and Angela Gigliotti's study of Swiss architectural agencies in Italy in *The Italian Ticinification*, exploring proximal

coloniality, extractivism, and real estate ventures. The Art Fellows, coming from a diverse range of disciplines such as visual arts, music, dance and performing arts, moving images, sound, and painting, curated events that opened up perspectives on their practice, while often involving other artists in their process. For instance, artist Ambra Viviani organised a listening session of her new sound piece, accompanied by a selection of other pieces by sound artists relevant to her own practice; choreographer Clara Delorme presented the first elaboration of her new dance piece *Unə su dieci*; Hunter Longe involved other artists in a group exhibition at a local independent art space.

ART

The 2025 artistic programme at Istituto Svizzero comprised a rich exhibition and public programme across its venues in Rome, Milan and Palermo, often developed in collaboration with local partners. The programme's exhibitions, performances and events foregrounded artistic research and critical enquiry, with particular emphasis on experimental practices addressing contemporary cultural and societal questions, showcasing a broad range of artists from different generations, disciplines and perspectives.

Among the programme's highlights, the group exhibition *Con lo zucchero in bocca* took the history of the villa hosting Istituto Svizzero in Rome as a starting point for a broader investigation into contemporary themes, involving the commission of new works to emerging artists and a dedicated art-science public programme. The monographic exhibition *how we always survived* was the first solo presentation by Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz in Italy, and it was met with a warm response from the audience (9,200 visitors in 3 months) and by enthusiastic criticism from major art magazines.

In Milan, a deeper synergy was developed with the local institutional network and artistic community, which ensured greater visibility of the programme especially during the Art and Design Weeks. The exhibition *The House of Dorothy* by Vincent Grange was able to engage a broader, interdisciplinary audience, thanks to its focus on contemporary themes and the inclusion in the House of Switzerland (in collaboration with Pro Helvetia and Presence Switzerland). The film and public programme *Each and every gesture*, developed in collaboration with Mousse starting from Grange's exhibition, expanded the themes of the show by involving other artists and authors with presentations in Milan and in Zurich at Cabaret Voltaire.

In the Fall, the exhibition *Deadline with the world* by Gabriele Garavaglia and Miriam Laura Leonardi brought the two artists to collaborate on a show for the first time and supported them with an ambitious new commission resulting in the shared exhibition. The collaboration with SPRINT – Independent Publishers and Artists' Books Salon continued with the exhibition *The Most Beautiful Swiss Books*.

In Palermo, the collective Helvetropicos was invited to curate a public programme in the particular context of the Botanical Garden, as part of a new art series dedicated to the showcasing of the work of Swiss independent, artist-run initiatives. Finally, the sound and performance winter festival *Sol Invictus*, taking place in Rome, Milan and Palermo, was enriched with the renewal of collaborations with MACRO museum (Rome) and Fondazione Sant'Elia (Palermo), and a new collaboration with BASE (Milan).



PROGRAMME

EXHIBITIONS

Shahryar Nashat. Blood Most Precious

Rome
09.11.2024–02.03.2025
Exhibition

Shahryar Nashat's first major solo exhibition in Rome explored the themes of desire and disgust, with new and existing works. Developed in collaboration with MASI Lugano, the exhibition continued the artist's ongoing engagement with the representation of bodies.

Vincent Grange. The House of Dorothy

▶ 15, 20
Milan
02.04.2025–03.07.2025
Exhibition

Vincent Grange's first solo exhibition in Italy. On the occasion of Milan Design Week and in conjunction with the House of Switzerland, the artist presented an architectural installation designed specifically for the spaces of Istituto Svizzero, at the intersection of spatial design and queer history.

Con lo zucchero in bocca

▶ 14, 24, 25, 37
Rome
18.04.2025–06.07.2025
Exhibition

Starting from sugar and the history of its production, the exhibition addressed the imaginaries associated with the exploitation of resources, revealing how sweetness, romanticism and desire often sugarcoated histories of exploitation and conquest. With: Gianfranco Baruchello, Binta Diaw, Gina Fischli, Pauline Julier, Oz Oderbolz, Sergio Rojas Chaves, Virginie Sistek, Milva Stutz.

Gabriele Garavaglia & Miriam Laura Leonardi. Deadline With The World

▶ 29, 40
Milan
19.09.2025–30.11.2025
Exhibition

For their first collaborative exhibition, Gabriele Garavaglia and Miriam Laura Leonardi engaged with the building's aseptic, corporate architecture, transforming it into a para-urban landscape. The project drew on the iconography of the garage as a space of promise, of the eternal "not yet".

Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz. how we always survived

▶ 28, 35
Rome
17.10.2025–01.02.2026
Exhibition

The first monographic exhibition of Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz in Italy, *how we always survived* explored the possibilities of sound as a language capable of shaping hope, mourning and desire within repressive contexts, blurring the boundaries between aesthetic and political acts.

The Most Beautiful Swiss Books

▶ 32
Milan
SPRINT / Spazio Maiocchi,
Ten Thousand Feet
28.11.2025–15.12.2025
Exhibition, Graphic Design, Publishing

Istituto Svizzero presented the twenty titles awarded *The Most Beautiful Swiss Books*. Organised by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, this selection represents the best of Swiss publishing, highlighting and promoting high-quality works that reflect contemporary trends.

As part of SPRINT—Independent Publishers and Artists' Books Salon and subsequently displayed at Ten Thousand Feet.

CONFERENCES

ArCHeoM 2025 | Swiss Archaeology in the Western Mediterranean

Rome
12.02.2025
Archaeology

The conference analysed the potential and challenges of Artificial Intelligence for archaeology, and brought together international Swiss experts, professors and early-career researchers in Classical Archaeology from the Universities of Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Neuchâtel, Lausanne and Zurich.

Capitali in itinere. Storie e visioni delle capitali della cultura

Rome
13.03.2025
Cultural Studies

The conference, organised by the Cultural Observatory of the Canton of Ticino, explored the origins and contemporary relevance of the designation "capital of culture", with particular attention to the Italian and Swiss contexts.

The diplomacy of cultural heritage – A view from Switzerland

Rome
18.03.2025
Heritage Studies

The conference analysed the role of cultural heritage in promoting peace and mutual understanding at an international level, starting from recent developments in Switzerland. In collaboration with the ALIPH Foundation, the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage and UNESCO.

Biases in Computer Technology and AI

Rome / Online
17.–18.06.2025
Digital Humanities

The event invited PhD candidates in the field of Digital Humanities to actively engage with the concept of bias in data, algorithms, interfaces and research design. Organised in collaboration with the University of Basel and DH-CH Digital Humanities Switzerland.

Christian Sarcophagi: Iconography, Textual Sources, and Models

Rome
11.–12.09.2025
Archaeology

The conference reassessed and updated traditional scholarship on the iconography of Early Christian and Proto-Byzantine sarcophagi from different regions of the Roman Empire, with particular attention to issues of style, provenance, dating and historical-cultural context. In collaboration with the University of Bern and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.

Heritage Infrastructures: Materialities, Flows and Exchanges

Rome
18.–19.09.2025
Heritage Studies

The conference provided a platform to rethink the relationships between heritage and infrastructure(s) at both international and local scales. In collaboration with the EPFL Heritage, Anthropology and Technologies Research Group and the University of Geneva Heritage Lab.

Polis & Sanctuary. Function and Importance of Sacred Areas for Society

Rome / Online
29.–31.10.2025
Archaeology

The conference investigated the importance and multifunctional roles of sacred areas in the apoikiai of the Western Mediterranean, with particular attention to Magna Graecia and Sicily (8th–5th century BCE). In collaboration with the Department of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Bern.

“What's on Your Plate?": Planetary Health and Healthy Diets

▶ 30
“Dispute” Series
Rome
06.11.2025
Food Studies

A one-day public forum that reimagined the future of food through the perspectives of science, diplomacy, and innovation in the agri-food and agri-technology sectors. Organised in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Organisations in Rome and the ETH Zurich World Food System Center.

Beyond the Atlantic Paradigm: Slavery in Comparative Perspective

Rome / Online
18.–19.11.2025
Migration Studies

The conference explored labour, asymmetric dependencies, coercion and slavery in Islamic and African societies from a longue durée and comparative perspective. Conceived within the framework of the SNSF Starting Grant TrALL: Tracing Labour in Islamic Legal Traditions, and organised in collaboration with the Institute for the Middle East and Muslim Societies at the University of Bern and the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies (ISO) at Sapienza University of Rome.

From Mimesis to Machine: AI and the Evolution of Artistic Creation

▶ 33, 34
“Innovation” Series
Rome / Online
27.11.2025
Digital Humanities

The programme, structured around a conference and workshops, explored how artificial intelligence is redefining our relationship with images, tradition, and knowledge, and how artistic education can respond to these changes in a critical and creative way. In collaboration with HEAD – Genève.

MUSIC, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Delicate People

▶ 23
Rome
15.05.2025
Performance

Italian stop of the *Delicate People* project, initiated in 2021 by Ruth Childs and Cécile Bouffard, with the aim of bringing together their respective disciplines, dance and sculpture.

SOUND TALES

▶ 16
Rome
23.05.2025
Concert

A music programme developed by Istituto Svizzero in collaboration with the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation designed to bring out new trends in contemporary jazz by Swiss and Italian talents. With: Nayana, Bassolino, Nive.

September Calling

▶ 26
Rome
26.09.2025
Concert

An evening of concerts featuring Dino Brandão & Domi Chansorn, OY, and Mary Gehnyei.

Helvetropicos: Time is on my side

▶ 27
Palermo, Orto Botanico
01.10.2025
Performance, Screening

The event inaugurated a series of projects by Istituto Svizzero dedicated to highlighting the work of independent and artist-run initiatives. For the first episode of the series, Istituto Svizzero invited the Helvetropicos collective, founded by Jorge Raka (Valais, Peru), Veronica Casellas Jimenez (Valais, Venezuela), and Patricio Gil Flood (Geneva, Argentina), to curate a programme of screenings and performances that explored the phenomenon of migration.

“Le repos” by Clara Delorme

Milan, Teatro Out Off
06.11.2025
Dance, Performance

Part of the programme of the Danae Festival, an international project by Teatro delle Moire. The performance by former Fellow Roma Calling Clara Delorme explored mourning as a collective bodily experience.

SOL INVICTUS: Sounds and performances for the winter solstice

► 36, 38, 39

Milan, Palermo, Rome
16.–17.–19.12.2025
Performance, Sound

Istituto Svizzero celebrated the winter solstice through a programme of performances and live sets in Milan, Palermo and Rome, in collaboration with BASE Milano, Fondazione Sant’Elia and MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome.

Milan

Performances: Auguste de Boursetty and Alex Freiheit, lisa laurent, Marara Kelly with S.O TBD & Lorenzo Benzoni
DJ Set: Marara Kelly b2b Saxisuxio

Palermo

Performances: Léa Katharina Meier and Tatiana Baumgartner, Annamaria Ajmone, Marara Kelly
DJ Set: Marara Kelly b2b Saxisuxio

Rome

Performances: lisa laurent, Melissa Biondo with Emi Curty and Zeltia Robin, Joseph Baan with Luc Häfliger and bela
DJ Set: Codalunga invites DJ Marcelle

LECTURES, TALKS, WORKSHOPS**Giornata Mondiale della Poesia**

Rome, Hungarian Academy
21.03.2025
Literature

On the occasion of Giornata Mondiale della Poesia, the eleventh edition of the reading evening took place. Istituto Svizzero invited the poet Laura Accerboni.

Swiss Talks. Within and Beyond

Zurich, Hochparterre Bücher
11.06.2025
Book Launch, Architecture

Conversations on Architecture. Swiss Talks. Within and Beyond, published with Caryatide publishing house and edited by Francesca Chiorino and Federico Tranfa, with the participation of Elli Mosayebi.

Poethreesome

Rome
06.10.2025
Literature

Each year, three figures from the Swiss poetry scene translate one another into three national languages. The 2025 edition of Poethreesome involved Martina Caluori, Marko Miladinović and Elodie Olson-Coons in a process of collective writing and mutual translation. The project was promoted by Babel Festival in collaboration with Istituto Svizzero, Lugano City of Culture and MRL Maison Rousseau et Littérature, with the support of Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and the Oertli Foundation.

Swiss Talks. Within and Beyond

Mendrisio, Library of the Academy of Architecture
07.10.2025
Book Launch, Architecture

Conversations on Architecture. Swiss Talks. Within and Beyond, published with Caryatide publishing house and edited by Francesca Chiorino and Federico Tranfa, with the participation of Christian Sumi.

Silvio Galizia: Building in Concrete for the Church

Rome
09.10.2025
Architecture

The workshop, organised in collaboration with ETH Zurich, Sapienza University of Rome and the University of Rome Tor Vergata, explored the role of structural engineering in post-war Italy and its relationship with ecclesiastical patronage.

«Le Tre Marie» Die Kirchen der Stadt Rom im Mittelalter 1050-1300

Rome / Online
29.10.2025
Book Launch, Architecture

Presentation of the two volumes *Die Kirchen der Stadt Rom im Mittelalter 1050-1300. Volume 5: S. Maria in Aracoeli, S. Maria Maggiore, S. Maria in Trastevere and Magistri Doctissimi Romani. Roman Marble Artists of the Middle Ages*, in collaboration with USI – Accademia di Architettura.

Swiss Talks

► 31

Venice, Milan
11.11.–10.12.2025
Architecture

A series of encounters dedicated to the orientations of Swiss contemporary architecture, curated by Francesca Chiorino, in collaboration with Casabella (9th edition). This year’s edition focuses on the interplay between architecture and science.

11.11.2025

Venice, Palazzo Trevisan

Swiss Talks #1

Intelligenza costruttiva:

Artificial and Manual Perspectives in the Making and Unmaking of the Planet

With Fabio Gramazio, Martino Pedrozzi and Michel Carlana.

10.12.2025

Milan

Swiss Talks #2

Après-ski: The Alpine Chalet and the Landscape Beyond Snow

With Silke Langenberg, Nicole McIntosh and Martina Voser.

Tavolata Letteratura / Incontri Professionali

Roma
03.12.2025
Letteratura

As part of *Fiera più Libri, più Liberi* Istituto Svizzero, in collaboration with Pro Helvetia, hosted the fourth edition of a networking evening for professionals from the Italian and international publishing industries in the halls of Villa Maraini.

ART & SCIENCE**Sweet Extractivism – Tracing the legacies of sugar and cocoa extraction**

► 22
Rome / Online
29.04.2025
Food Studies

The event, organised on the occasion of the exhibition *Con lo zucchero in bocca*, explored the complex relationship between sweetness and resource extraction. A round table featuring contributions from experts examined the intersections of postcolonialism, race, environmental justice and economic inequality. The programme concluded with a screening curated by Il Pasticciere Trozkista, an artistic initiative intertwining cinema and patisserie.

The Edible Institute II. Unearthing the difficult heritage of plants

► 17

Rome
10.06.2025
Food Studies

The event marked the second season of a project activating the garden of Istituto Svizzero in Rome, initiated in 2024 by the artist and farmer duo Aterraterra as a metabolic, political and convivial space in which cultivation also became a critical gesture. The public programme included a workshop led by artist and researcher Sergio Rojas Chaves, a tasting session by Almaz Aweke, and a discussion panel with Ginevra Ludovici, Klara Machata and Larissa Tiki Mbassi.

CINEMA AND SCREENINGS**Each and every gesture**

► 21

Milan
04.04.2025
Reading, Screening

On the occasion of Milano Art Week, Istituto Svizzero and Mousse collaborated on a selection of screenings and readings, intertwining curatorial and editorial practices. Videos by Alexandra Bachzetsis, Shu Lea Cheang, Giulia Essyad, Kilian Feusi / Jessica Meier / Sujanth Ravichandran, John Giorno, Vincent Grange, Tarek Lakhri, Ursulina de Lombardia in collaboration with Mayara Yamada, Lovett / Codagnone. Readings by Michele Bertolino, Sandra Cane and Zeyn Joukhadar.

Each and every gesture

Zurich, Cabaret Voltaire
13.06.2025
Reading, Screening

On the occasion of Zurich Art Weekend, Istituto Svizzero and Mousse brought *Each and every gesture* to Cabaret Voltaire. Videos by Alexandra Bachzetsis, Shu Lea Cheang, Giulia Essyad, Kilian Feusi / Jessica Meier / Sujanth Ravichandran, John Giorno, Vincent Grange, Tarek Lakhri, Ursulina de Lombardia in collaboration with Mayara Yamada, Lovett / Codagnone. Live reading by Joseph Baan.

Doc Nights – Documentaries selected by Visions du Réel International Film Festival Nyon

► 19

Rome
03.–04.07.2025
Screening

Two evenings of screenings in the garden featuring four documentaries officially selected by Visions du Réel, the International Film Festival of Nyon. Screenings included *Anote’s Ark* by Matthieu Rytz, *Union* by Brett Story and Stephen Maing, *Valentina e i MUOStri* by Francesca Scalisi, and *As the Tide Comes In* by Juan Palacios and Sofie Husum Johannesen.

Don't Let the Sun

Milan, Cinema Arlecchino
12.10.2025
Screening

Screening of *Don't Let the Sun* by Jacqueline Zünd, a feature film set in a Milanese suburb transformed by the climate emergency. On the occasion of Locarno a Milano, three days dedicated to films from the 78th edition of the historic Swiss festival, a project by Cineteca Milano and Locarno Film Festival.

La Ligne

Rome, Villa Medici
28.10.2025
Screening

Screening of the film *La Ligne* by Ursula Meier, Senior Fellow 2025 at Istituto Svizzero. The event was held in the presence of the film director, who took part in a Q&A with the audience following the screening.

Facts are bigger in the dark

Milan
19.11.2025
Screening

On the occasion of *Deadline With The World*, Istituto Svizzero presented *Facts are bigger in the dark*, an evening dedicated to the screening of collaborative videos by artists Gabriele Garavaglia & Miriam Laura Leonardi, followed by a conversation with art critic Mariuccia Casadio.

A temporary history

Rome
09.12.2025
Round Table, Screening

Screening of *UNRWA, 75 ans d'une histoire provisoire*, on the role and future of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) followed by a discussion with the film directors and a representative of UNRWA, addressing the present and future of the longest unresolved refugee crisis.

SUMMER SCHOOLS**Identités antiques en question, Rome comme lieu de construction d'identités**

Rome
07.-12.07.2025
Ancient Studies, Art History, History

The Summer School aims to raise participants' awareness of issues relating to cultural identities, with a particular focus on how the classical sciences contribute to their formation.

The keynote 'In dialogo con il passato: il progetto CArME per Roma del XXI secolo' by Prof. Walter Tocci opened the 2025 session of the Summer School (07.07.2025). A project by the University of Geneva and the University of Neuchâtel, in collaboration with CArME.

Arenella

► 18
Palazzo Butera
07.-12.07.2025
Architecture

The Summer School aims to bring the findings of the study trip in March 2025 compiled in the so-called "Arenella Atlas" and resulting projects back to Palermo and open them up for discussion through an exhibition by students from ETH Zurich and the Academy of Fine Arts of Palermo and a curatorial programme. The final event (11.07.2025) at Officine Bellotti resulted in the exhibition opening and a round table with Flavio de Bruna, Maurizio Carta, Valentina Mandalari and Yohann Hubert, along with students from Studio Tom Emerson (ETH).

A project by ETH Zurich, in collaboration with :After and Fondazione Studio Rizoma.

PUBLICATIONS**ARTS****Con lo zucchero in bocca**

Edited by Lucrezia Calabrò Visconti
Istituto Svizzero, 2025

Volume published in conjunction with the exhibition *Con lo zucchero in bocca*, Istituto Svizzero, Rome, 18.04.-06.07.2025

SCIENCE**L'arte e la tecnica delle decorazioni a stucco in Europa: dalla fine del XV alla metà del XVIII secolo / The Art and Industry of Stucco Decoration in Europe: From the Late 15th to the Middle of 18th Century**

Edited by Giacinta Jean and Alberto Felici
Officina Libraria, 2025

A collection of essays connected to research activities conducted within the Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI) and the Archivio del Moderno (USI), and to jointly organised events such as the Summer School *Stucchi e stuccatori ticinesi a Roma. Dalla riscoperta cinquecentesca alla grande tradizione barocca* and the conference *The art and the industry of stucco decoration*, Istituto Svizzero, Rome, 03.-04.02.2022.

Unveiling hidden heritage: Narratives, politics, and agency

Edited by Florence Graezer and Peter Billie Larsen
Letteraventidue, 2025
with the support of Istituto Svizzero

ARTS & SCIENCE**Perfino le cose vogliono essere chiamate**

Edited by Cecilia Canziani
Istituto Svizzero, 2025

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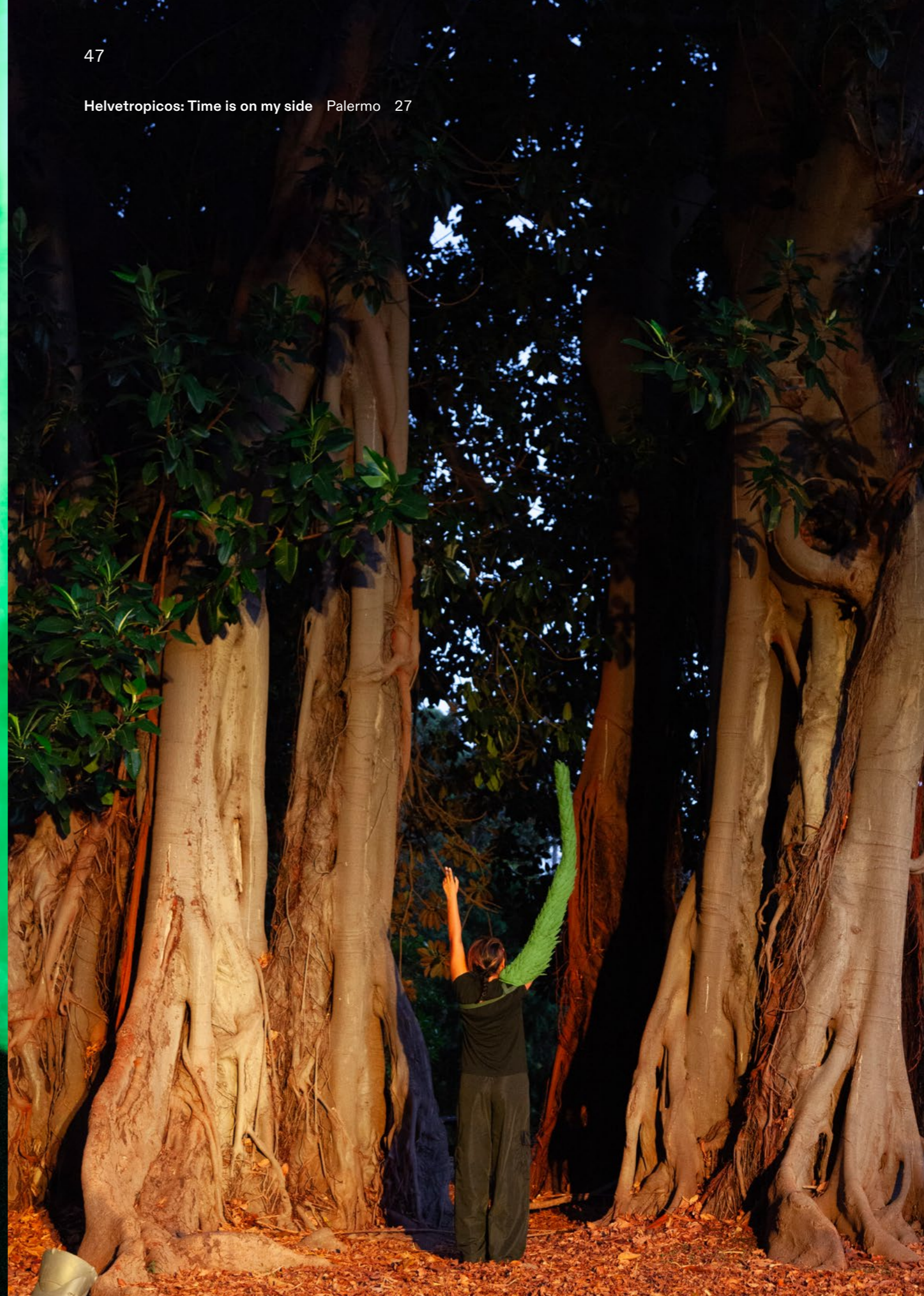
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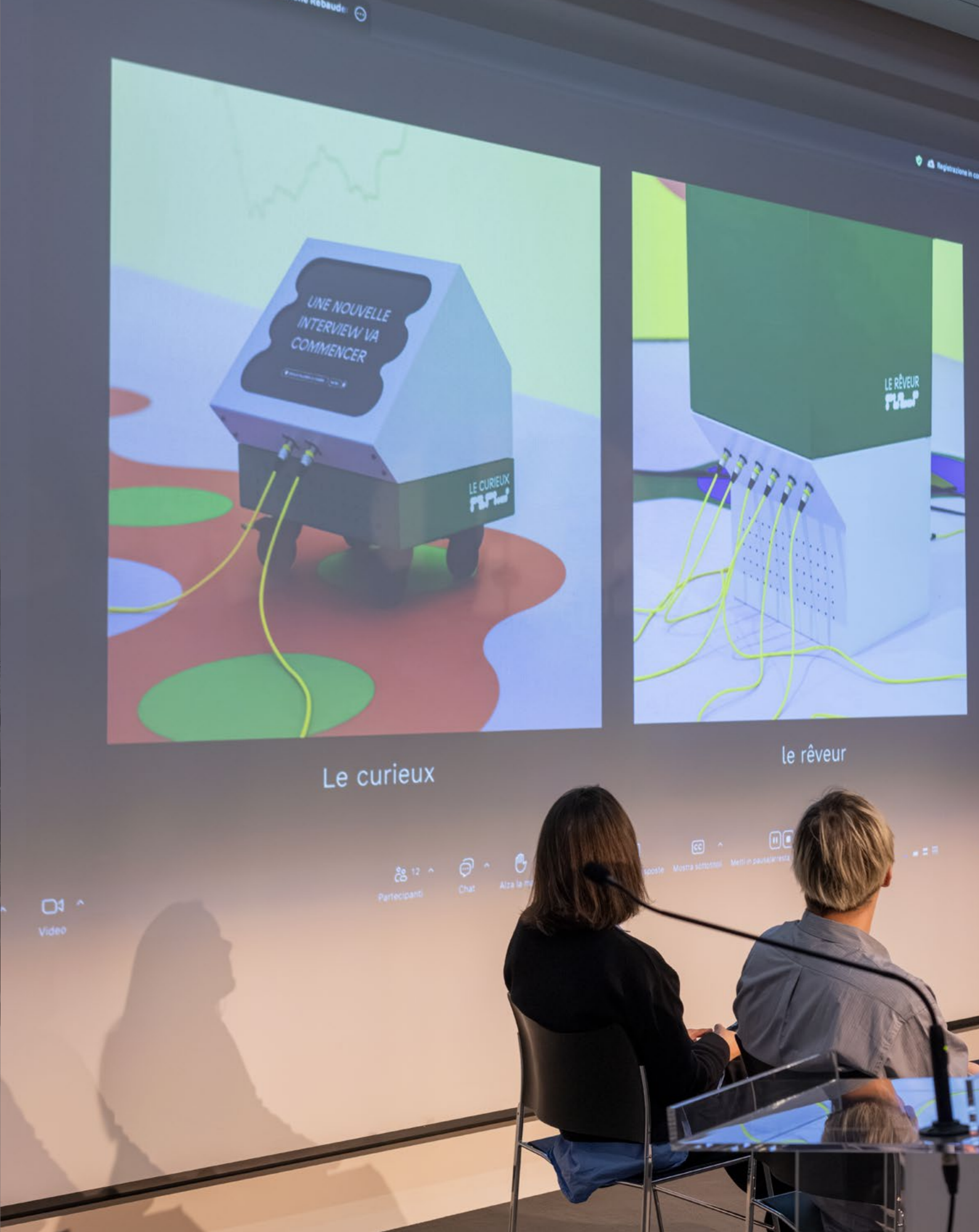




















P U L L U P T O T H E C L I M A X





OUTREACH

PRESS

Con lo zucchero in bocca

“Dal microscopico al macroscopico, dal granello di polvere di zucchero alla vastità di una galassia, le opere in mostra sovvertono le aspettative sul discorso ecologico, offrendo nuove e urgenti forme di narrazione [...] Una mostra speciale che scava tra il passato e il presente dell'essere umano.”
— *Il Messaggero*, Valentina Venturi

“Exhibitions such as *Con lo zucchero in bocca* rarefy structures of power: that is, they make them less dense or solid, opening them up to forms of expression and interrogation.”
— *Mousse*, Rose Higham-Stainton

The House of Dorothy

“Rendendo omaggio alle molteplici strategie di resistenza e riappropriazione degli spazi pubblici, Vincent Grange presenta l'installazione *The House of Dorothy* [...] Un progetto sulla storia e l'immaginario queer.”
— *Kunstbulletin*, Elisa Rusca

Deadline With The World

“Si è immediatamente immersi in un ambiente che sfida la separazione tra corpo e spazio, visibile e invisibile, costruito e interdetto.”
— *Flash Art*, Alice Minervini

“In *Deadline With The World* trifft versteckte Macht, architektonisch präzise inszeniert, auf anarchische Rebellion.”
— *Kunstbulletin*, Barbara Fässler

how we always survived

“*All the things she said* is the keystone of Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz's tightly choreographed exhibition of videos and sculptures at Istituto Svizzero.”
— *e-flux criticism*, Ben Eastham

“With *how we always survived*, Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz insist on queerness, demilitarisation and the cohabitation of fabulous, non-compliant bodies. Across gestural abstractions and choreographed video works, presence and absence intertwine, resisting visibility while honouring repair, survival and the fleeting utopia of the dancefloor.”
— *Art Monthly*, Erika Balsom

“Siamo invitati a partecipare alla coreografia politica del duo artistico. Guardiamo e ascoltiamo senza poter percepire tutto: noi completiamo l'opera con nuove tracce che lasceremo, immaginandoci sul palco luminoso di un futuro possibile.”
— *Il Manifesto*

Swiss Talks. About and Beyond

“Il rapporto tra Italia e Svizzera si manifesta come un dialogo fertile che attraversa ogni ambito – dall'arte all'architettura, dalla lingua al paesaggio – generando visioni condivise, capaci di superare i confini. È da questa tensione creativa che nasce *Swiss Talks. About and Beyond*, il progetto editoriale promosso dall'Istituto Svizzero.”
— *Espazium magazine*, Sophie Marie Piccoli

FACTS AND NUMBERS

**41.799
VISITORS**

**31
FELLOWS**

**71
EVENTS**

**6
RESIDENCY
PROGRAMMES**

59 Research stays
27 Screenings
25 Performances
16 Conferences
13 I Pomeriggi (Fellows' events)
12 Concerts

11 Studio visits
8 Networking events
6 Exhibitions
5 Symposia
4 Workshops
2 Summer Schools

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Istituto Svizzero further strengthened its digital presence across its website and social media platforms. The website recorded 126,000 visitors in 2025, up from 91,063 in 2024, while total page views increased from 260,408 to 280,000, confirming the website as a key entry point for information on Istituto's activities.

Engagement across social media continued to grow. Instagram showed the strongest expansion, with followers increasing from 19,600 in 2024 to 24,610 in 2025. LinkedIn also expanded its community—particularly within the academic network—with followers rising from 2,469 to 3,323.

A dedicated social media campaign promoting the 2026/2027 residency calls featured 14 posts, including excerpts from former Fellows sharing their experiences, further increasing the visibility of Istituto Svizzero and its calls.

WEBSITE

Visitors	
2025	126.000 ↑
2024	91.063
Views	
2025	280.000 ↑
2024	260.408

FACEBOOK

Followers	
2025	17.883 ↓
2024	17.982

INSTAGRAM

Followers	
2025	24.610 ↑
2024	19.600
Views	
2025	322.516 ↑
2024	202.055

LINKEDIN

Followers	
2025	3.323 ↑
2024	2.469
Views	
2025	1.670 ↑
2024	1.369

**SOCIAL CALLS CAMPAIGN
2026/2027**

Posts	14
Instagram views	446.670
Facebook views	3.560
Linkedin views	2.236



CONNECTIONS

Istituto Svizzero further consolidated and expanded its network of collaborations and partnerships, as a fundamental pillar for the development and quality of its programme. Relationships established with cultural institutions, research bodies, universities, and public and private organizations, in Switzerland and internationally, have significantly supported both Art and Science activities, as well as the cross-disciplinary Art and Science area, fostering an ongoing dialogue between disciplines, methodologies, and languages.

At the same time, particular attention has been devoted to strengthening Istituto Svizzero's anchoring within the Italian context, where an increasing number of partnerships with local institutions and stakeholders have contributed to positioning Istituto Svizzero as a point of reference at the national level. This dual orientation—both international and locally embedded—has enabled the development of projects that are at once globally relevant and deeply connected to the cultural and scientific fabric of the country.

Structural collaborations have ensured continuity, depth, and coherence across research and production processes, enabling the development of long-term projects and strengthening established networks of exchange. In parallel, Istituto Svizzero has activated targeted partnerships in connection with exhibitions, residency programmes, conferences, publications, and public events, engaging a wide range of stakeholders and contributing to making each initiative an open and multi-disciplinary space for exchange.

SCIENCE PARTNERS

In Switzerland, a particularly strong partnership was developed in 2025 with the University of Bern, which co-organised three major events—*Christian Sarcophagi*, *Polis & Sanctuary*, and

Beyond the Atlantic Paradigm: Slavery in Comparative Perspectives—as well as with the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern for *On Forest*, with multiple speakers and guests from the University of Bern participating across other initiatives. ETH Zurich, a long-standing partner of Istituto Svizzero, actively collaborated on several initiatives, including the workshop *Silvio Galizia: Building in Concrete for the Church*, the *Swiss Talks* series on architecture, and the Tom Emerson Studio at ETH co-organised the Summer School *Atlas Arenella* in Palermo. Additionally, the ETH World Food System Center partnered with Istituto Svizzero in organising the *Dispute*. This year, we also welcomed new partnerships with HEAD – Genève and ZHdK, while in Italy, Istituto Svizzero's longstanding collaboration with Sapienza University was strengthened through a new convention fostering scientific exchanges for Fellows and joint academic events.

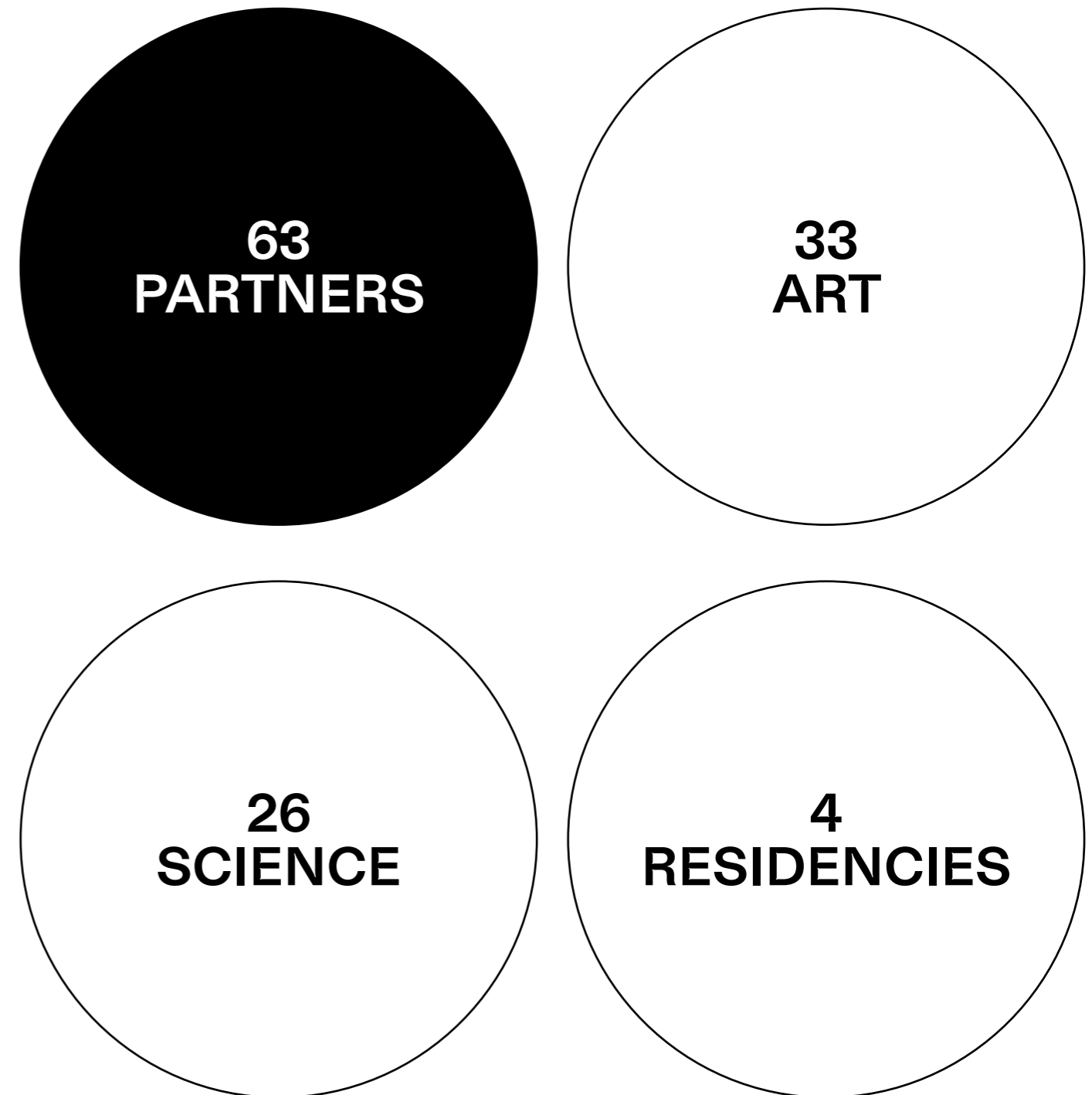
ART PARTNERS

In Milan, Istituto Svizzero strengthened its connection with the local network of institutions, foundations and galleries, by entering into the board of the Milan Art Community. This allowed for a tighter coordination of events and communication, bringing increased visibility especially on the occasion of the Art and Design Week. Istituto Svizzero consolidated its partnership with *Mousse*, contemporary art magazine with a strong international outlook, developing the screening and live programme *Each and every gesture* during Milan Art Week 2025 and presenting it also at the Zürich Art Weekend 2025 at Cabaret Voltaire. Another case of successful partnership between Milan and Switzerland is the collaboration with SPRINT – Independent Publishers and Artists' Books Salon and the Swiss Federal Office of Culture with the exhibition *The Most Beautiful Swiss Books*. Finally, new partnerships were initiated on occasion of the *Sol Invictus*

performance festival, hosted for the first time at BASE Milano, renewing a collaboration with MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, and confirming the one with Fondazione Sant'Elia. A collaboration with the Botanical Garden in Palermo was initiated to host the screening and performance programme *Time is on my side*. The partnership between Istituto Svizzero and the Montreux Jazz Festival Foundation remains particularly significant in order to continue developing *Sound Tales*, a well-attended concert series that supports contemporary and emerging musicians from Switzerland and Italy.

Istituto Svizzero fosters sustained dialogue and collaboration with international institutes and academies. Notable examples include its collaboration with Villa Medici-French Academy in Rome on the occasion of a screening held in the presence of filmmaker Ursula Meier, Senior Fellow at Istituto Svizzero; its partnership with the Bibliotheca Hertziana for a group exhibition featuring the participation of Fellow Margaretha Jüngling; and its cooperation with EUNIC in the organization of the event *Giornata Mondiale della Poesia*, dedicated to contemporary European poetry. These initiatives exemplify Istituto Svizzero's commitment to building dynamic cultural networks and to enhancing the mobility and visibility of artists and researchers on an international scale.

PARTNERSHIPS



MANAGEMENT/FINANCE

The financial support provided by SERI, Pro Helvetia and the OFCL for 2025 has enabled the set objectives to be achieved. From 2025 onwards, the reduction in the subsidy by CHF 144,000 (5% of the total subsidy amount) for the duration of the new service contract (2025-2028) has been partially offset by cost-saving measures, new contractual contributions and ad hoc support for artistic programming. Contributions in kind and sponsorship have supported the implementation of scientific and cultural programmes. The Canton of Ticino, the City of Lugano and the Università della Svizzera Italiana provided their annual support totaling CHF 140,000, while the Canton of Valais contributed with the second tranche of CHF 20,000 under the four-year progressive contract. In the private sector, EFG International contributed an extra CHF 15,000 towards the annual spring concert, in addition to its annual support of CHF 70,000.

Istituto Svizzero wishes to thank once again all its partners and sponsors for their unflagging trust.

The Foundation Board met four times: twice online, once in person in Milan and once in Rome, where it attended the Fellows' final event, *Persino le cose vogliono essere chiamate*. The Scientific Advisory Board held its meeting in Rome in autumn 2025.

OBJECTIVES

Istituto Svizzero is supported by the Swiss Confederation to achieve the following four-year objectives for the period 2025-2028:

A

Offer to young Swiss artists and researchers the possibility to reside in Italy while pursuing their research interests, develop artistic or scientific projects in concert with their Italian counterparts, and create interfaces between the arts and the sciences.

B

Forge and develop contacts, networks, and collaborations in artistic and scientific domains between Switzerland and Italy (bilateral); forge, activate, and strengthen international cooperation networks (multilateral).

C

Promote Swiss education, research, innovation, and contemporary art creation in Italy through activities, services, digital spaces, and partnerships that stimulate collaboration, based on the aims and needs of the partners, taking into account and encouraging sustainable development in the longer term.

FINANCE

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	31.12.2025 (CHF)	31.12.2024 (CHF)
Cash	5'375	6'896
Banks	1'388'065	1'260'544
Debtors and active transitions	322'237	255'415
Furnishing – Library	2	2
Financial fixed assets	4'589'433	4'461'278
Total assets	6'305'112	5'984'135
LIABILITIES	31.12.2025 (CHF)	31.12.2024 (CHF)
Creditors and passive transitions	371'636	325'841
Severance pay fund and other personnel costs	746'533	691'989
Special funds	498'269	278'181
Founding capital	6'000'000	6'000'000
Results carried forward	-1'311'876	-1'312'065
Financial year result	550	189
Total liabilities	6'305'112	5'984'135

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

INCOME	2025 (CHF)	2024 (CHF)
Pro Helvetia contributions	1'520'000	1'600'000
SERI contributions	1'216'000	1'280'000
EFG Bank contributions	70'000	70'000
Canton Ticino, City of Lugano, USI contributions	140'000	140'000
Canton Valais contributions	20'000	17'500
Sponsor contributions	65'525	20'830
Other income	87'853	39'562
Total income	3'119'378	3'167'892
COSTS	2025 (CHF)	2024 (CHF)
Personnel costs	1'527'326	1'539'804
Artistic and scientific events	538'880	589'785
Residency Programme	364'848	349'581
Communication and image	116'806	101'011
Library / Digitalisation	48'152	41'836
Administrative costs	174'220	182'320
Villa Maraini building and garden management	186'531	187'512
Management of Milan facilities	151'586	160'697
Other costs	10'480	15'156
Total costs	3'118'829	3'167'703
OPERATING RESULT	550	189
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RESULT		
FINANCIAL YEAR RESULT	550	189

ORGANISATION/GOVERNANCE

TEAM

DIRECTOR Joëlle Comé	ASSISTANT SCIENCE & PRODUCTION Silvia Santini
HEAD CURATOR Lucrezia Calabrò Visconti	ASSISTANT ART & PRODUCTION Cecilia Lanzarini
HEAD OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH, INNOVATION Ilyas Azouzi	TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT Orazio Battaglia
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ACCOUNTING Carlotta Cantagalli	

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PERMANENT GUEST MEMBER Roberto Balzaretto Ambassador of Switzerland to Italy
SECRETARY Elena Catuogno Istituto Svizzero

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Università della Svizzera Italiana
EFG

The annual report is available
for consultation on
www.istitutosvizzero.it

