

ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 25–27, 2019



# Eye-Centricity and the Visual Cultures of Italy and Its Diaspora

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor, New York NY 10036

Cover photograph courtesy of Laura E. Ruberto.

## Eye-Centricity and the Visual Cultures of Italy and Its Diaspora

Italy, and by extension *italianità*, is a hyper-visualized locus that is well suited for critical interventions on visual culture. This interdisciplinary conference proposes to explore the visual cultures Italians have created, consumed, and been the subject of from early modernity to the contemporary “post-text” era. Italians—including inhabitants of the nation-state, members of the diaspora, and former colonial subjects—have been conceptualized, rendered, and understood to a large degree by the visual. Landscapes (e.g., Roman ruins, the “old neighborhood”), individuals (e.g., the picturesque *contadina*, the criminalized immigrant), objects (e.g., fascist architecture in Asmara, pizza), and cultural concepts (e.g., *bella figura*, the evil eye) have been the stuff of visual arts, media, advertisement, tourism, and vernacular renderings concerning Italy’s histories and identities within and beyond the country’s geopolitical boundaries. These and other visual frames are didactic modes by which tropes of Italy and Italians are promoted and consumed, contested and re-imagined. This conference builds on the work of visual culture studies scholars with their concern for scopic regimes, commodities, and the visual manifestations of race, gender, and sexuality.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

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6:00–8:00 pm

Welcome and Reception

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

ELIZABETH HENDREY, Provost, Queens College, CUNY

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

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9–9:30 am Coffee and pastries

9:30–10:45 am

**Architecture and Site-Specific Viewings** Conference Room

Chair: Robert Oppedisano, Editor

Shades of *Italianità* on the American Campus, GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College, CUNY

Promoting the *Bel Paese* in Radio City: The History of Rockefeller Center's Palazzo d'Italia, NICOLA LUCCHI, Queens College, CUNY

Virgil Cantini: The Preservation of Pittsburgh's "Renaissance Man," MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

11 am–12:15 pm Conference Room

**Keynote** Signing Italian/American Cinema: A More Focused Look

ANTHONY J. TAMBURRI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

**Depictions on Canvas** Conference Room

Chair: Melissa E. Marinaro, Senator John Heinz History Center

The Male Gaze and Women's Portraits in Renaissance Italy, JOANN DELMONICO LUHRS, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Beyond the Mirror: Constructing the "Italian Woman" in Late Nineteenth-Century Transnational Painting, FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College, CUNY

Clothing and Literacy in the Paintings of Donatus Buongiorno (1865–1935), JANICE CARAPPELLUCCI, Carapellucci Design

## **Visualized Literature in Italy** Galleria

Chair: George DeStefano, Independent Scholar

Viewing Verga: Visual Representations of the Realist Master's Work, SUSAN AMATANGELO, College of the Holy Cross

Narrating Giovanni Ruffini's *Doctor Antonio* (1855), TERESA BERTILOTTI, Independent Scholar; IRENE PIAZZONI, University of Milan

Beyond the Futurist Words-in-Freedom: Marinetti's Final Poetics and the Invention of Visual Poetry, PATRIZIO CECCAGNOLI, University of Kansas

3–4:15 pm

## **Marketing Politics, Consumerism, and Tourism** Conference Room

Chair: Giulia Guarnieri, Bronx Community College, CUNY

Italian Fascism in Brazil through the Lens of Propaganda Pictures, FULVIA ZEGA, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Made in Italy Fashion and the Italian Americans, MARCELLA MARTIN, New York University

Conflicted Gazes: Visual Depictions of Italy for the American Tourist Market, DAVID ALIANO, College of Mount Saint Vincent

4:30–5:20 pm

## **Procession and Progression in the *Mezzogiorno*: Illuminating the Many Faces of the Mother** Conference Room

Chair: David Aliano, College of Mount Saint Vincent

Walking to Visibility: The Women of Trapani's Procession of the Mysteries, SUSAN CAPERNA LLOYD, Independent Scholar

*Malocchio* in the Hands of *Mama del Sud*: When Grandmother Becomes the Black Madonna, CHRISTINA MARROCCO, Elgin Community College

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

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9–9:30 am Coffee and pastries

9:30–10:45 am

**Seeing Is Believing** Conference Room

Chair: Francesca Canadé Sautman, Hunter College, CUNY

Fooling the Natives: Conversations about Migrants Who Pass in Contemporary Italy, ROBERT H. GAROT, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

How Seeing Influences Believing: The Psychological Influence of Images on the Persistence of Ethnic Stereotypes among Italian Americans, DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Seeing Is Believing: Re-Visioning Italian Americans, JACQUELINE MAGGIO-MAY, Mayven Solutions

11 am–12:15 pm

**Spiritual View(ing)s in Italian American Writing and Visual Arts**

Conference Room

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College, CUNY

Imagery in Pietro di Donato's *Three Circles of Light* (1960), CARLA FRANCELLINI, University of Siena

Ancestral Mothers, Feminine Icons, and Black Madonnas in the Works of Susan Caperna Lloyd, ELISABETTA MARINO, University of Rome Tor Vergata

Bill Viola's Deserts: Sites of Vision and Revelation, SABRINA VELLUCCI, Roma Tre University

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

**Sonorities and Resistances** Conference Room

Chair: Jacqueline Maggio-May, Mayven Solutions

Modernity and Tradition in the Music Videos of Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino, GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

*'O paese d' 'o sole: Audio-Visual Synesthesia and the Silencing of the South in the Italian American Imaginary*, KEN SCRIBONI, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

What Does Resistance Look Like? Images of Steadfastness and Dignity in Italian Culture, DARIO DEL PUPPO, Trinity College, Hartford

3–3:50 pm

**Illustrating Identities** Conference Room

Chair: Anthony Cavaluzzi, SUNY Adirondack

Preserving the Culture of Molise in Romeo Musa's (1882–1960) Woodcuts, ADELIA WILLIAMS, Pace University

Espresso in a Teacup: Graphic Storytelling and Intersectional Italian Canadian Life in *Bella* Comics, TERRI FAVRO, Author; RON EDDING, Visual Artist

4:05–4:55 pm

**Cinematic Takes** Conference Room

Chair: Anthony J. Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

The Duality of the Ethnic and the Erotic in the Films of Rudolph Valentino, ANTHONY CAVALUZZI, SUNY Adirondack

The Americanization of Italy in the 1950s: Constructing Italianness in *Roman Holiday* and *Un Americano a Roma*, CHIARA DE SANTI, Farmingdale State College, SUNY



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