

Celebrating
PLAUTILLA'S 500°



May 11, 2024
Sala Brunelleschi, Istituto degli Innocenti



On the occasion of the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of Plautilla Nelli, the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute pays homage to the Florentine artist through a diagnostic study and restoration project dedicated to her and with a thematic area set up in her honor within the exhibition “Nutrire il Futuro – Nurturing the Future” (May 11, 2024), at the Sala Brunelleschi of the Istituto degli Innocenti.

For the first time, the painting by Plautilla Nelli “Madonna and Child with Saint Dominic, Saint Catherine, and Saint Agnes” (private collection) is exhibited to the public after being restored by advanced students of the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute **Aashika Jain**, **William Johnson**, and **Rylie Severino** under the guidance of the departmental supervisor, the restorer and art historian **Roberta Lapucci**.

A Renaissance figure and one of the first recognized female artists in Florence, Plautilla Nelli (1524-1588) entered the convent in 1538 at the age of 14, becoming a Dominican nun at the now non-existent Santa Caterina da Siena convent on Via Larga (today Via Cavour). Within the convent walls, Nelli managed to conquer cultural spaces that were then forbidden to most women, thanks to her art. Heir to the school of San Marco and Fra' Bartolomeo, she was also an entrepreneur avant la lettre, establishing her own workshop within the convent, which involved her fellow sisters in the creation of artworks. Thrice prioress of the convent and in relationships with noble and bourgeois Florentine families, she created an art workshop

composed of her fellow sisters, even being mentioned by Vasari in his "Lives". Plautilla Nelli painted "so many pictures for the homes of Florentine gentlemen that it would be too long to talk about them all."

An extremely important statement that inspired the research of the artist's works by **Jane Adams**, co-founder of **Caravaggio & Company** and project supervisor of this restoration initiative for the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute. In her words: "To sum up Nelli and her great achievements as a female artist I would like to quote Jane Fortune, whose mission and love for Nelli I share – 'Once you get involved with Nelli, once she gets in your soul, she's with you everyday.'"

Carla Guarducci, the president and CEO of the Institute commented on the project with the following words: "I am pleased to promote an initiative that enhances the activity of the Renaissance painter, Plautilla Nelli. Little known to most, she is an artist who is important to remember. Having entered the convent at a very young age, she managed to create through art and the sharing of artistic knowledge a creative and therefore, in a sense, free space, in a world where this freedom was denied to most women."



Rediscovering Plautilla – A Multidisciplinary Journey

As part of the series of initiatives promoted in honor of the 500th anniversary of Plautilla's birth by the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute, students from the Historical Painting course (ancient and traditional painting techniques), from the Etching course (etching techniques), and students from the advanced Jewelry Design course were inspired by the work and life of this artist to create a series of works dedicated to her, and are on display today.





Thanks to / Grazie a

RESTORATION PROJECT

Coordinator: Professor **Roberta Lapucci**

Project Supervisor: Jane Adams

Advanced Restoration Students:

Aashika Jain, William Johnson, and Rylie Severino

*The project is carried out in collaboration with **Dr. Catherine Turrill-Lupi**, Prof. Emeritus, California State University; **Trisha Dalke**, University of Amsterdam.*

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT

Printmaking Project:

Coordinated by Professor **Lucy Jochamowitz**

Artworks by Etching Students: Amanda Nessel; Analucia Paez Munoz; Charlotte Allsbrook; Evelyn Benitez Suarez; Girjia Jhalani; Katherine Holland; Linn Roos; Nisa Acan

Historical Painting Project:

Coordinated by Professor **Gregory Burney**

Artworks by Historical Painting Students:

Analucia Paez Munoz; Audrey Price; Conor Glesner; Emma Oeberg; Hailey Clements; Juliana Kish; Kathryn Mcanulty; Kayla Parsons; Marlee Lord; Mauryne Audige; Sofia Piliero; Sophia Quinn; Hannah Wogalter ; Alexandra Coscioni; Grace Handy

Jewelry Design Project:

Coordinated by Professors **Yoko Shimizu and Francesco Coda**

Jewelry Students:

Charlotte Allsbrook; Madeline Ambrosino; Lily Baxter; Joel Georgij; Maya Jacobs; Thu Luu; Eden MacMillan; Laura Valades; Paola Valdez;