

Lauro Magnani

Professor on contract

Lauro Giovanni Magnani, professor emeritus, was full professor of Modern Art History at the University of Genoa. Painting, sculpture, patronage, and iconographic lectures between the 16th and the 18th century, as well as the history of gardens in the same period, are his main field of research. The core focus of his work is:

- The iconographic analysis of the fresco decorations of the palaces and villas of the Genoese aristocracy which aims at enhancing the close relationship linking landscapes, buildings, decoration and art collections. In 1997 he was a Summer Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Landscape Architecture, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, where he returned in 2001 to take part in the XXIII Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium on the History of Landscape Architecture; he later took part in the International Forum of Garden Cities in Wuhan, China. He developed research on the theme of historical gardens, producing essays, exhibitions, and a monograph, *Il tempio di Venere* (1987, 2005). Recently, he curated the exhibition *Grotte e giardini ai tempi di Rubens*, along with the related catalog (Genoa 2022).

- The Baroque painting in Genoa, with monographs and essays (1990, 2000, 2003, 2008, 2013). The studies on 17th-century sculpture (1988 e 2003) with the essays written for the catalogue of the exhibitions “Genova nell’Età Barocca” (1992) and “Pierre Puget” (1994 and 1995), of which he was co-curator.

- The study of post-tridentine imagery in figurative arts: as coordinator of specific projects he has published works on the iconographies preferred by religious Orders, as well as on Genoese artistic production after the Council of Trento and its developments in the 17th century, writing essays (1983-85, 1992, 1997, 2012) and monographs (1990, 2000); he has also studied the connections among artistic images, meditation and mystical vision (1989, 1990, 2004, 2016, 2017). He has curator of a monograph about architecture, art and iconography in the female monasteries in Genoa (2011).

- Also linked to this fields of research is his monograph on the 16th-century painter Luca Cambiaso (1995), where the artist’s mythological production is the object of an in-depth investigation, followed by the temporary exhibitions devoted to this artist in Austin, Texas (2006); Genoa, Italy (2007); and Osnabruck, Germany (2007) and to the Artist’s drawings (Venice 2002, Genoa 2007). About the Luca Cambiaso works, he organised an international Symposium (2008).

- Later analyzing in detail specific subjects about great artists of modern Europe: Correggio (2011 e 2012), Barocci (2009), Caravaggio (2011), Andrea Pozzo (2011), Daniele Crespi (2006), Rembrandt (2006 and 2007), Rubens (2025).

National coordinator of research on Art collecting in the Baroque age, he has published some essays about patronage (1987, 2009, 2010).

Since 1999 he coordinated, together with colleagues of the Faculty of Engineering, the elaboration of a series of experimental 3D renderings applied to historic architecture and artistic objects.

He was Dean of the School of Humanities and Rector's Delegate for the conservation and communication of the cultural patrimony of the University of Genoa.