

Collegium historiae artium

Hlavní referující

Zuzanna Sarnecka (University of Warsaw)

Téma

Sensual Clay: The New Approach to Italian Renaissance Terracotta Sculpture



Fontana Workshop, Inkstand with a man playing an organ, c. 1550–1560, glazed terracotta, Victoria and Albert Museum. Photo: © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

The studies of Italian Renaissance terracotta sculpture are often limited to the enquiries about the works by celebrated Florentine masters, such as Luca della Robbia or Donatello. The proposed shift of the emphasis from attributions to the analysis of the medium and function opens new modes of interpretation of a group of Renaissance artworks previously ignored by art historians. The focus on the technical aspects of production allows to constructively compare the works made by celebrated artists with these created by mostly anonymous and local artisans. Due to the limited access to marble quarries in various parts of the Italian peninsula terracotta became the material used to create the most innovative and exciting works.

In this lecture, I will discuss diverse forms of terracotta sculpture that illustrate multisensory ways of interaction. Practical artefacts, such as terracotta inkstands, models of churches and chapels, as well as devotional reliefs, became powerful agents influencing human behaviour, for instance by stimulating people to sing or to burn incense. The sensory approach to terracotta figures allows to challenge the division between high and decorative arts, because of the realization that artworks were not merely passive objects to be looked at and their materiality engaged various senses.

Kdy

Kde

**středa 12. června 2019,
16:30**

**ÚDU AV ČR,
Husova 4, Praha 1, 1. patro, č. 117**