

## Roberta Lapucci (Painting Conservation, Graduate Seminar in Conservation)

### Education

- 1989** *Dottorato di Ricerca* in Art History, thesis on "Caravaggio's Techniques: Materials and Methods" under the supervision of Prof. Mina Gregori, Corrado Maltese, and Maurizio Calvesi.
- 1986** Specialization course in Medieval and Modern Art History, University of Florence. Thesis: "The Technique used by Beato Angelico on his Frescoes in the Church of San Marco," under the supervision of Prof. Mina Gregori.
- 1985** *Laurea Magna cum laude* in Humanities and Philosophy (with emphasis on Art History), University of Florence. Thesis: "The Effects of Napoleonic Suppression on Florentine Convents," under the supervision of Ugo Procacci, Mina Gregori, Cristina de Benedictis, and Silvia Meloni.

### Additional Professional Preparation

- Dec. 2003** CNR Course "When Art Embraces Technology: New Microscopes for Cultural Heritage," at the CNR's Centro di Microscopie Elettroniche, Sesto Fiorentino, coordinated by Prof. Giannini.
- Sept.-June, 2000** Specialization course taught by Renzo Giachetti in "*Archeological Restoration*" (ceramics), Studio Art Centers International.
- June 1990-June 1991** Post-doctorate scholarship, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, to study "Computer Science applied to Cultural Heritage."
- June 1991-June 1992** Post-doctorate scholarship, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, to study "Computer Science applied to Cultural Heritage." (TOMUS project with the Region of Tuscany).
- Dec. 1990** 2nd-level computer course at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa: "*Standards and Controlled Vocabulary for Computer Systems*," coordinated by Prof. P. Barocchi.

- 1989** Course on "Science, Technology and the European Cultural Heritage," Bologna, organized by the European Community.
- May 1988** Course on "Non-destructive tests for the Study of the Conservation of Artworks," coordinated by ICR, Rome.
- Jan-June, 1987** Course on "Method and Science," organized by the Università Internazionale dell'Arte, Firenze, coordinated by Prof. Umberto Baldini.
- 1986** Passed qualification exam to teach Art History in high schools and art institutes (Classes XCII).
- March–June, 1986** Course on "Italian Armour from the Second Half of the 16th-Century," organized by the Stibbert Museum, coordinated by Prof. Lionello Boccia.
- Nov. 1985- Nov. 1986** Post-Baccalaureate scholarship at the Horne Museum in Florence to study the "Statutes of the Florentine Republic," under the supervision of Prof. Ugo Procacci.
- Passed competitive examination for a position as university researcher for the Facoltà di Magistero of the University of Arezzo.

### **Teaching Experience**

- 1993-present** Instructor of Baroque Art, Methodologies in Art History, and History and Theory of Art Restoration, Università di Lettere, Dipartimento di storia delle arti e dello spettacolo, Firenze.
- 1993-present** Restoration instructor and thesis coordinator for third-year diploma students, Università Internazionale dell'arte, Firenze.
- 1992-present** Instructor of Art Conservation at Studio Art Centers International, Firenze. Area Head of Art Conservation Department since 1995.

### **Seminars, Lectures, and Additional Teaching Experience**

- Dec. 2008** Lecture "Photosensitive and luminescent materials in the works of Caravaggio," Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia.
- Sept. 2008** Lecture "The Alchemy of Caravaggio" at the Painted

- Optics seminar, Studio Art Centers International.
- March 2008** Lecture "Caravaggio 400: investigations and discoveries regarding his enigmatic Maltese paintings," Amici dei Musei.
- 2007-2008** Taught retraining courses for Florentine museum personnel entitled "Ordinary Museum Maintenance" for Cescot, Region of Tuscany, and Confesercenti.
- Sept. 2007** Lecture "Caravaggio and Optics," Unesco, Treviso during the evening seminar "Art and Science."
- May 2006** Lecture "Caravaggio and Optics" at the Italian Cultural Institute in Malta and "The Techniques of Caravaggio" at the Art History Department of the University of Malta.
- February 2006** Lecture "Caravaggio and Optics" at the symposium "Caravaggio and Europe," Milan, Palazzo Reale.
- 2005-present** Numerous lectures on the subject of Italian Restoration Ethics and on Caravaggio's Techniques at the Fondazione di Studi di Storia dell'Arte Roberto Longhi.
- July 2004** Taught archaeology to students from Belgrade at the SACI laboratory in Portoferraio (part of the SACI/Belgrade exchange under the auspices of UNESCO)
- July 2003** Le notti dell'archeologia: "An operative archaeological restoration laboratory," Rio Elba.
- July 2003** Lecture "SACI's activity in the field of archaeology," Marciana Alta, during "Le notti dell'archeologia."
- May 2002** Participation with posters, stands, and practical demonstrations of archaeological restoration during Cultural Heritage Week at the Laboratorio Caserma de Laugier, Portoferraio, Elba.
- October 2002** Lecture "Caravaggio and the Technique of Italian Painting in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, State University of Art History, Belgrade. Taught weekly courses about archaeology and paintings on canvas at the Diana Center in Belgrade, under the auspices of UNESCO.
- May 2002** Poster presentation: American Institute for Conservation (AIC) annual meeting: "A new approach

to restore combusted artworks: a canvas painting by Francesco Curradi," Arlington, Virginia.

**March 2002**

Lecture "What diagnostic exams have revealed about works by Caravaggio" during "Days Dedicated to the Study of Art Diagnostics," symposium at the Fondazione di Studi di Storia dell'Arte Roberto Longhi in collaboration with the Opificio delle Pietre Dure and the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

**Sept.-Dec. 2001**

Taught course "Problems with Illuminating Engineering in Museums " for the Region of Tuscany at the Università Internazionale dell'Arte and at the Istituto Tecnico Industriale Leonardo da Vinci.

**May 2000**

Havana, Cuba. Taught course about paintings on canvas and art diagnostics as part of an exchange between SACI and the restoration laboratory of l'Oficina de l'Historiador and Cencrem (Centro Nazionale di Diagnostica Artistica. Seven SACI, students and 10 Cuban students took part in the exchange (see publication in Kermes magazine).

**Jan.-June 1998**

Taught course for the Region of Tuscany at the Università Internazionale dell'Arte about Florentine Baroque Churches, entitled "Places of Worship."

**1998**

Participated in round table at the Borghese Gallery, Rome, on the restoration of the *Madonna dei Palafrenieri* by Caravaggio.

**October 1998**

Lecture "A Baroque Complex: Methodology and Restoration" at the symposium Technoart in Barcelona.

**July 1998**

Lecture "Florence Restoration Site in Recent Years," Toledo, Center for Visual Arts.

**June 1998**

Lecture "The Nature of Paint Media in Ancient Italian Art and Problems of Decay" at Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

**1996/97**

Professor for the school of textile restoration at the University of Florence, coordinated by Prof. Lucia Nucci. Course: "Paintings on canvas, their historical evolution, decay, and restoration."

**March 1996**

Lecture on "The influence of Giovan Battista Secco Suardo and Ulisse Forni on the restoration of paintings in Florence between 1860 and 1890" during the

symposium: Giovan Battista Secco Suardo, Bergamo, sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

**Spring 1995**

Taught restoration and theoretical methodologies during an internship organized in Florence and inserted in the annual qualification courses for restorers of paintings by the Region of Sardinia.

**1994/1995-  
2000/2001**

Participated in the seminar "Art Techniques" held during the specialization course "Science and Cultural Heritage," Facoltà di Mineralogia dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze, coordinated by Prof. C. Cipriani.

**1993/94 – 2007/08**

Professor for the school of specialization in Art History at the University of Florence for courses in "Art Diagnostics," "Literature in the Study of Art Techniques," "Art History Methodologies," "History and Theory of Restoration," and "Baroque Art History." The school has since been transformed into a Specialization Laurea, instead of a school of specialization, but the teaching commitment continues.

**1992-93**

Lectures about Caravaggio's technique at various associations: Accademia Ligustica di Genova, Lyon's Clubs, Rotary Clubs, and Amici dei Musei.

**Jan. 1992**

Lecture "New X-Ray and Infrared Reflectography exams on works by Caravaggio," at the symposium entitled "How Caravaggio Painted", Florence.

**1990-1991**

Participated in the seminar "History of Art Techniques," held during the Art History specialization course at the Università La Sapienza di Roma, coordinated by Prof. Corrado Maltese.

**Oct. 1990**

Participated as instructor for the course "Computer Technology for Cultural Heritage," Scuola Normale di Pisa.

**Professional Experience and Accomplishments**

**2007**

Discovery and restoration of painting on canvas depicting Saint Jerome by Caravaggio.

**May 2007**

Restoration of "The Baptism of Christ" by Mario Minniti at the Convent of Sant'Orsola, Malta. Conservation of glass and metal archaeological artefacts at the Bigli

Center, Malta, comparing Italian, Maltese and U.S. conservation methods.

**2007-present**

Archaeological conservation of three Picenean tombs, two at Villa Corsini and one at the Archaeological Museum of Florence. Project with Studio Art Centers International in collaboration with l'Università della Toscana (Viterbo), directed by Dr. Cianferoni (SAT Toscana).

**May 2003**

Restoration with Alessandro Gori of a large canvas painting by Alonso Rodriguez, depicting *Saint Peter Healing the Paralytic*, Museo de Belas Artes dell'Avana, Havana, Cuba.

**1999-2000**

Computer cataloguing of paintings and religious furnishings for the Soprintendenza ai beni artistici e storici e architettonici di Pisa (from churches on the island of Elba).

**1996-2006**

Restoration of Baroque paintings and frescoes in the church of the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angiolini, Via della Colonna 34, Firenze. Project with Studio Art Centers International sponsored by Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze under the direction of Dr. Brunella Teodori (SBAAAS Firenze).

**1994**

Internship (methods of chromatic selection) with lectures and workshops at the Cleveland Institute of Art and at the restoration laboratory of Dean Yoder, who collaborates with the Cleveland Museum of Art.

**1993**

Organization of a digital archive of technical reports on the artworks of Caravaggio at the Fondazione di studi di Storia dell'arte Roberto Longhi, Firenze.

**1988-1992**

Collaboration with the Fondazione di studi di Storia dell'Arte Roberto Longhi for the computerization of archival and bibliographical material belonging to the foundation.

**1985-89**

Cataloguing (OA cards) of the artworks in the depository and on display at the Accademia for the Soprintendenza ai beni storici artistici delle province di Firenze e Pistoia.

## **Exhibitions**

- 2009** Exhibition on Francesco dell'Antella, Malta.
- 1997** Participated in the scientific direction of "Caravaggio and his First Followers," Solonico, Cultural Capital of Europe, Palazzo Reale di Kivernio.
- 1991-92** Scientific co-director of the exhibition "How Caravaggio Painted," Palazzo Pitti, Firenze and Palazzo Ruspoli, Rome.
- 1990** Participated in the scientific and organizational management of the exhibition "I Lorena a Firenze e in Toscana", sponsored by the Azienda Autonoma di Soggiorno e Turismo. Essay: "Art Academies and Instruction during the Lorraine Period."

## **Publications**

- 2010: Saggio: Riflessioni sugli specchi nell'arte, in Tiziano a Milano Skira, Milano Pagine 81-87
- 2010: Volume: Caravaggio e la scienza della luce, Il Prato Giugno 2010.
- 2009: Essay: "Il Bacco degli Uffizi: Scheda tecnica identificativa del dipinto", in Nuove scoperte sul Caravaggio, Servizi Editoriali, October 2009.
- 2009: Book: "L'eredità tecnica del Caravaggio a Malta, in Sicilia e a Napoli. Spigolature sul caravaggismo meridionale", Il Prato editore, October 2009.
- 2009: Essay: "Caravaggio e l'ottica: aggiornamenti e riflessioni", in Atti del Convegno: Caravaggio e l'Europa, l'artista, la storia, la tecnica e la sua eredità, a cura di L. Spezzaferro, Cinisello Balsamo, Silvana, 2009, pp. 59-68
- 2009: Essay: "Caravaggio and the Alchemy of Painting", in Atti del Convegno "Painted Optics", Firenze, Studio Art Centers International, 7-9 September 2008, Firenze, March 2009, pp. 37-82
- 2008: Essay: "Technique of execution" and essay: "Avoiding Lining Process: a Technical and Ethical Issue", in "Minniti's Baptism of Christ: a signed painting", Edifir, Firenze, Series: Florence-Malta Cross references, vol. 3, pp. (currently being published).
- 2008: Intervista con Stefania Mattioli, "Caravaggio dipingeva con le lucciole", in "Stile Arte", sezione: Scoperte, n. 123, anno XIII, pp. 6-11, novembre 2008.

2008: Essay: "Sorpreso dalla luce: schemi ottico prospettici del Saulo Odescalchi Balbi", in Catalogo mostra, "Caravaggio a Milano", Skira, Milano, November 2008, pp. 117-121.

2008: Essay: "Restoration and Conservation: Before, During, After" and "A New Approach Determined by the Restoration" in "The Zejtun Painting: Shades of Caravaggio" Edifir, Firenze, Series: Florence-Malta Cross references, vol. 1, pp. 19-22 and 29-3.

2007: Essay: "The Technique of Caravaggio's Late Years (1606-10)" in the exhibition catalogue: "Caravaggio and Paintings of Realism in Malta" Midsea, Valletta, pp. 133-138.

2006: Interview with Stefania Mattioli, "Caravaggio ottico", in "Stile Arte", sezione: Scoperte, n. 98, anno X, maggio 2006.

2006: Santa Maria degli Angiolini: Ten Years of Restoration, Firenze, Edifir, Scientific director and author of essay.

2006: Essay: "Vicende storiche dell'epoca barocca dell '800."

2005: Book: Caravaggio e l'ottica/Caravaggio and Optics, Firenze, Servizi Editoriali.

2004: Diana Center, Belgrade, Newsletter, two articles in Serbian, November 2003 and September 2004.

2003-2004: SACI Newsletter, included in various articles on SACI's international projects.

2002: Article in Kermes: n. 45: Progetti internazionali: "Un Caravaggesco all'Avana. Le opere d'arte italiana nei climi tropicali", pp. 56-59.

1999: Exhibition catalogue: "Arte e scienza", by M. Bona Castellotti, Crema, March-Sept. 1999, essay: "Caravaggio e i fenomeni ottici", pp. 45-60.

1998: Article: "Problematiche conservative negli edifici di culto," in "Bollettino dell'Accademia degli Euteleti," San Miniato, Pisa, n. 65, pp. 259-270.

1998: Essay: "La tecnica di Francesco Curradi" in volume: "Il Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angiolini," vol. II.

1997: Essay "Il Cenacolo di Matteo Rosselli presso il Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angiolini," in volume I Cenacoli fiorentini," by C. Acidini and L. Vertova, Cassa di Risparmio, Firenze, pp. 159-163.

1997: Introduction (La tecnica dei primi seguaci del Caravaggio) and technical charts for each painting in the exhibition: "Caravaggio e i suoi primi seguaci", Salonicco, April-June 1997.

1997: Essay "Le vicende storiche" in volume "Il Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angiolini," vol. I, Firenze, pp. 7-16.

1996: Essay: "Dopo Messina: Siracusa. Ulteriori chiarificazioni sulla tecnica siciliana del caravaggio" in volume: "Il seppellimento di Santa Lucia del Caravaggio," Siracusa, 1996, pp. 17-70.

1996: Essay: "Influenza di Giovanni Secco Suardo e di Ulisse Forni nel restauro dei dipinti a Firenze (1860-1890)," in Bollettino d'Arte.

1995: Kermes, n. 24: Article: "Contributo per la conoscenza dei pigmenti seicenteschi", pp. 32-40.

1992 (1996): Proceedings from "Come dipingeva il Caravaggio", Firenze, 28/1/1992, Milano, two essays entitled: "Radiografie e riflettografie a infrarossi su alcune opere del Caravaggio: novità, conferme e problemi", pp. 31-50; "Riflessioni in margine al convegno e alla mostra su nuove indagini radiografiche ad opere del Caravaggio," pp. 102-114.

1994: Essay: "Documentazione tecnica sulle opere del Caravaggio" in "Quaderni dell'attività didattica del Museo Regionale di Messina," n. 4, pp. 17-69.

1994: Article: "Caravaggio e i quadretti nello specchio ritratti" in "Paragone-Arte", XLV, nn. 44-46, pp. 160-170.

1992: Volume: "Inventario identificativo del patrimonio museale toscano," special issue of "Quaderni del Bollettino di informazioni del centro elaborazione automatica di dati e documenti storico artistici della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa," December 1992, II, pp. 17-35 and 107-130.

1991: Article: "Spoglio bibliografico di applicazioni al computer per i beni culturali," in "Bollettino d'informazioni del centro di elaborazione automatica di dati e documenti storico artistici della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa," n. 1, pp. 75-100.

1991: Exhibition catalogue: "Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Come nascono i capolavori", Milano, Electa, pp. 31-51 (introduction) and technical charts on each painting.

1990: Article: "Due proposte di banche dati per le ricerche documentarie: 1) Gli archivi storici delle Accademie; 2) La soppressione napoleonica dei conventi" in "Bollettino d'informazioni del centro di elaborazione automatica di dati e documenti storico artistici della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa," n. 2, pp. 153-165.

1990: Article: "ai conventi soppressi al Museo di Berlino", in "Paragone-Arte," n. 487, September, pp. 76-88.

1989: Article: Storia di alcuni dipinti estratti dalle compagnie soppresse da Pietro Leopoldo nel 1785" in "Rivista d'arte" n. XLI, Olschki, pp. 209-249.

1987: Exhibition catalogue: "Bartolomeo Manfredi e la Manfrediana Methodus," Cremona, Mondatori, pp. 89-97 (essay on the artist's technique).

1987: Article: "Restauro tardo-settecentesco alle pitture del Chiostrino dei Voti della SS: Annunziata" in "Rivista d'arte" n. XXXIX, Olschki, pp. 461-474.

1987: Article: "Fonti d'archivio per la storia delle arti durante la soppressione napoleonica a Firenze" in "Rivista d'arte" n. XXXIX, Olschki, pp. 475-493.

1986: Exhibition catalogue: "Il Seicento fiorentino" vol. 1, chart 1.97, p. 216; Firenze, Cantini.

1986: Exhibition catalogue: "Andrea del Sarto 1486-1530" chart XXII, Milano, D'Angeli-Hauser, pp. 144-148.

1986: Exhibition catalogue: "Capolavori e restauri", Firenze, Cantini, chart 13°, p. 308.

1986: Pamphlet: "Il Palazzo Bartolini-Torrigiani, dalla Locanda del Cammello all'Albergo Porta Rossa", Firenze, Tipografia 2R.

## **Recent Restorations**

### **Paintings:**

During many years of activity at SACI more than 300 paintings from private and public collections have been restored with the help of students, and completed in the more delicate phases by myself. Among the paintings restored are works by the following artists: Memling, Taddeo Gaddi, Tiziano, Bassano, Tintoretto, Furini, Bilivert, Giovanni da San Giovanni, Curradi, Rosselli, Guido Reni, Stanzione, Annibale Carracci, Veronese, Luca Giordano, Vouet, Battistello Caracciolo, Mario Minniti, Josepe de Ribera and numerous painters from the school of Caravaggio.

July 2004, in collaboration with Stefano Garosi, restoration of a series of works on canvas from the 17th century from the home of Cesare Brandi in Siena, under the direction of Dr. Guiducci of SBAS.

Numerous restorations have been carried out on paintings from the school of Caravaggio, belonging to the private, public and ecclesiastic sectors.

### **Archaeology:**

September 2004 – Work on the Picenean tombs in the depository of the

Archaeological Superintendency at Villa Corsini, directed by Dr. Cianferoni.

2003-04 – Restoration of a series of Etruscan ceramics from Murlo (FI), under the direction of Dr. Goggioli.

2000-2004 – Artefacts from the port of Porto Azzurro (Elba): Classification of fragments by ceramic class, discovery and restoration of amphoras, ceramics from Arezzo, etc. The work continues at the laboratory of the Caserma De Laugier in Portoferraio, under the direction of Dr. Silvia Ducci (SAT Toscana).

2000-2004 – Restoration and maintenance of artefacts exhibited at the Museo Archeologica La Linguella di Portoferraio (LI), under the direction of Dr. Battaglini (museum director) and Dr. Silvia ducci (SAT Toscana).

2002-2004: Restoration of Etruscan ceramic artefacts from the necropolis of Pian dei Lupi (Castiglioncello), currently exhibited at the Museo di Castiglioncello (LI), work directed by Dr. Edina Regoli (museum director) and Dr. Silvia Ducci (SAT Toscana).

2000-2004 Maintenance of artefacts exhibited in the summer of 2002 at the Museo di Rio Elba (LI), prehistoric, Villanovan, and Etruscan ceramics, under the direction of Dr. Silvia Ducci (SAT Toscana).

2000-present – Agreement with the City of Portoferraio and SAT Toscana for the reopening of the restoration laboratory located in the Caserma di Laugier, closed 12 years ago by the Superintendency; Summer courses in archaeological restoration and periodic checks during the winter of the objects exhibited in the Museo Archeologica La Linguella in Portoferraio, restoration of numerous artefacts kept in the depository of the Superintendency at la Caserma De Laugier, which are often recuperated from marine environments without carrying out a desalinating process.

1999 - Collaboration with the Cooperativa Archeologica di Firenze for restoration on Etruscan artefacts from the Fortezza di Monte Poggio Bombari.

1998/99 – Necropoli del Buraccio (Rio Elba- LI)- Restoration of 135 ceramic pieces from various time periods, many of which are exhibited at the Museo Archeologico di Rio Elba (prehistoric to Etruscan), continued maintenance and upkeep of the glass display cabinets.

1997/98- Restoration, packing, photographic documentation, and inventory of artefacts of the Antiquarium in Marciana (LI), Museo Civico Archeologico under the direction of Dr. Silvia Ducci (SAT Toscana), in collaboration with Prof. Renzo Giachetti and SACI.

1997/98- Review of the restoration of Etruscan pieces in the despository of the Museo Guarnacci di Volterra (SI), directed by Dr. Gabriele Cateni.

1997-present- Collaboration with Florida State University in the restoration of ceramics from the Etruscan village of Cetamura in Chinati (FI), which are excavated every summer by Prof. Nancy de Grummond and restored by SACI during the winter.

## **Television**

RAI – Italian national television, Giovanni Carrada and Cristina Scardovi came to SACI (and later I went to Malta) to film a 10 minute video for Superquark, a program by Piero Angelo, transmitted July 12, 2007. Web site:

Rai1/Superquarck/Servizi/11/07/2007

Tg3: Fernando Ferrigno

Web site: Rai3/tg3/12/07/2007

November 2008- The BBC is currently producing a documentary about Caravaggio's *Capture of Christ* found in Dublin.