

## Maurizio Calvesi

**Professor Emeritus at the Università di Roma “La Sapienza”, Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, Fellow of the Accademia Clementina, Bologna**

### **2008 Balzan Prize for the Visual Arts since 1700**

*For his outstanding work on the history of modern and contemporary visual art, which has contributed to a better understanding of the nature and development of modernism as well as to the study of the origin of new trends in contemporary art.*

#### **Institution Administering Research Funds:**

Fondazione Palazzo Albizzini, Collezione Burri, Città di Castello, Perugia

**Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee:** Dmitry O. Shvidkovsky

### **Three Research Projects on the Visual Arts in Italy**

Maurizio Calvesi has set aside the second half of the 2008 Balzan Prize for the visual arts since 1700 for three research projects, which are personally supervised by the prize-winner and which involves five young scholars, for two or three years.

Research Project A. *Antiquarian Culture in Rome from Biondo Flavio to Piranesi.* This project deals with a subject already touched upon by scholars, but which still has significant scope to be developed. This area covers the works of the fifteenth century “antiquarians”, including the problem of *Polifilo*, ranging from Cartari, Pignoria and Cassiano, through Pozzo to Kircher, Venuti and Piranesi, to mention only a few of the names that immediately come to mind. In this era, there developed a compact tradition that was full of internal cross-references that are obviously closely related to the history of the visual arts, from Pinturicchio’s cycle in the Vatican to Piranesi’s work. The research is being carried out by three scholars: Stefano Colonna (in charge of the research), Camilla Fiore and Jacopo Curzietti. It is being supervised by Professor Maurizio Calvesi, who has already produced various studies on these subjects. Professor Colonna’s close textual analysis of the single surviving example of Stefano Buzzoni’s *Epigrammata* has permitted the research to incorporate a triangularization of cultural relations between Rome, Venice and Brescia. In addition Professor Colonna has

been able to identify the resting place of Tommaso Paleologo (previously described as unknown) in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. Drs. Curzietti and Fiore have carried out detailed research on the period covering the pontificates of the Barberini and Chigi Popes (1630-1666). In minutely examining the literature of the period and concentrating on the architectonic and figurative aspects of artistic expression much light has been shed on the projection during this period of the image of a *Roma-Triumphans*. In addition many new aspects regarding the restoration projects of classical Roman edifices and structures undertaken in this period, have been uncovered. A number of articles describing the conclusions of the research are being published. A monograph *Gli eruditi dell'Accademia alessandrina: la politica antiquaria sotto il pontificato di Alessandro VII (Chigi)*, which will draw together much of the material, is forthcoming.

Research Project B. *Critical Edition of the Sources and Documents Related to Caravaggesque Painters and a Search for Yet Undiscovered Sources*. Professor Stefania Macioce, who will supervise this research together with Professor Maurizio Calvesi, Professor Alessandro Zuccari and Professor Caterina Volpi, has already published a fundamental collection of documents concerning Caravaggio (S. Macioce, *Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Fonti e documenti 1532-1724*, Roma, 2003). The Balzan Project aims to create an analogous *corpus* for the main Caravaggesque painters, putting together a critical edition of the great number of scattered, already known documents. In the course of the research, being carried out by Michele Nicolaci, it is possible that new documents on Caravaggio himself might also be discovered, and they would thus be included in the publication.

Research Project C. *Complete Catalogue of the Works of Umberto Boccioni*. There is already a catalogue of Boccioni's works, compiled by Ester Coen with the supervision of Maurizio Calvesi, who penned the introductory essay, which appeared in 1982. In consideration of the documentary innovations that have emerged on the painter since, and taking into account the great number of unpublished works discovered since then, not to mention the errors now apparent in the text, a new catalogue of the works is obviously necessary. The article *Ester l'Expert, Leggerezze su Boccioni* penned by Professor Calvesi in 2008, can be considered as a detailed justification for such an endeavor. This new catalogue is being edited by Alberto Dambruoso, with the assistance of Professor Maurizio Calvesi and shall appear in two volumes published by Allemandi.

**Researchers:**

Stefano Colonna  
Filippone de Montagu

Jacopo Curziotti  
Alberto Dambruoso  
Camilla Fiore  
Michele Nicolaci

**Publications:**

Maurizio Calvesi

*Ester l'Expert, Leggerezze su Boccioni*, in "Storia dell'arte" 119, (n.s. 19) pp. 131-70; *1607: Pomarancio a Loreto e Caravaggio tra Malta e Corfù*, in "Storia dell'arte" 127, (n.s. 27) pp. 36-40; *Caravaggio, i documenti e dell'altro* in "Storia dell'arte" 128, (n.s. 28) pp. 22-51; *Caravaggio, ancora due asterischi: la veste di cappuccino, e 'l'Humilitas'*, in "Storia dell'arte" 130, (n.s. 30) pp. 38-40

**Project A**

Stefano Colonna  
Filippone de Montagu

*La fortuna critica dell'Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, CAM Editrice, Rome, 2009.

Jacopo Curziotti

*La decorazione della cappella Pasqualoni in San Lorenzo in Lucina. Note e Documenti su Domenico e Giovan Francesco de Rossi*, in "Storia dell'arte" 128, (n.s. 28) pp. 98-121; *Gian Lorenzo Bernini e Domenico de Rossi. I busti di Giovan Battista d'Aste e Clarice Margana in S. Maria in Via Lata*, in "Storia dell'arte" 130, (n.s. 30) pp. 65-82.

Camilla S. Fiore

*Mattia de Rossi: documenti inediti per il cantiere del monastero di S. Giuseppe a Capo le Case*, in "Storia dell'arte" 130, (n.s. 30) pp. 83-93.

The final conclusions of the research will be published in the following publications:

Camilla S. Fiore

*Parmi d'andare peregrinando dolcissimamente per quell'Etruria – Scoperte antiquarie e natura nell'Etruria di*

- Camilla S. Fiore *Curzio Inghirami e Athanasius Kircher in “Storia dell’arte”* (forthcoming).  
*Un carteggio inedito: incisioni e documenti sulle antichità etrusche di Athanasius Kircher e Ovidio Montalbani* (forthcoming).
- Jacopo Curziotti and Camilla S. Fiore *Gli eruditi dell’Accademia alessandrina: la politica antiquaria sotto il pontificato di Alessandro VII (Chigi)*, (forthcoming).
- Project B**
- Michele Nicolaci *Caravaggio. Mecanati e pittori*, exhibition catalogue (Caravaggio, Museo Diocesano, 2010), ed. M.C. Terzaghi, Silvana editoriale, Cinisello Balsamo, 2010, 8 contributions.
- Michele Nicolaci and F. Valdinoci (eds.) *Vite di Caravaggio*, Casadei Libri, Padua, 2010.
- Michele Nicolaci (with Riccardo Gandolfi) *Il Caravaggio di Guido Reni. La ‘Negazione di Pietro’ tra relazioni artistiche e operazione finanziarie*, in “Storia dell’arte” 130, (n.s. 30) pp. 41-64.
- Michele Nicolaci *Caravaggio a Roma. Una vita dal vero*, exhibition catalogue (Rome, Archivio di Stato, complesso Sant’Ivo alla Sapienza, 2011), ed. O. Verdi and M. Di Sivo, Rome, De Luca editore, 2011, 5 contributions.
- Michele Nicolaci ‘Appendice I. Artemisia Lomi Gentileschi (1593-1654)’, in *Artemisia. Storia di una passione*, exhibition catalogue (Milan Palazzo Reale 2011/12), eds. R. Contini and F. Solinas, 24Ore cultura, Milan 2011, pp. 258-69, in addition 7 contributions.
- Michele Nicolaci *Lettere di Artemisia*, ed. F. Solinas, Rome, De Luca editore, 2011.

and Y. Primarosa  
(with the participation of)

Michele Nicolaci            ‘Biographie. Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1654)’ in *Artemisia, 1593-1654*, exhibition catalogue (Paris, Musée Maillol, 2012), eds. R. Contini and F. Solinas, Paris Gallimard, 2012, pp. 229-37, in addition 5 contributions.

Michele Nicolaci            *Roma al tempo di Caravaggio*, exhibition catalogue (Rome, Palazzo Venezia, 2011/12), ed. R. Vodret, Milan Skira 2011, 8 contributions including 3 biographies (Caravaggio, Gentileschi & Guidotti).

Forthcoming publications:

Michele Nicolaci            ‘Sul naturalismo di Giovanni Baglione (1598-1606)’ in *Roma moderna e contemporanea*, eds. F. Curti, M. Di Sivo, O. Verdi, (2012).

Michele Nicolaci            ‘Il Pensionante del Saraceni. Storiografia di un enigma caravaggesco’, in *Carlo Saraceni (1578-1619)*, exhibition catalogue, (Rome, Palazzo Venezia, 2012/13), ed. M.G. Aurigemma, in addition 6 contributions, (2012).

Michele Nicolaci            *L’inventario dei beni di Giulio Mancini (1568-1630) e qualche riflessione sulle ‘Considerazioni sulla pittura’* in “Storia Dell’Arte”, 134, 2013.

Michele Nicolaci            *Paolo Guidotti il Cavalier Borghese (1560-1629)*.

### **Project C**

Alberto Dambruoso

*Catologo generale dell’opera di Umberto Boccioni*  
(forthcoming).