



**italianCouncil**  
Bringing our Contemporary Art to the World



Direzione Generale  
**Creatività Contemporanea**

COMUNICATO STAMPA

## **STEFANO GRAZIANI. DOCUMENTS ON RAPHAEL**

Vicenza, Palladio Museum, 23 October 2021 - 20 February 2022

This new Palladio Museum exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of the “Italian Council” (7th edition, 2019), a project promoting Italian contemporary art in the world, created by the Italian Ministry of Culture Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity. For the Palladio Museum it is an opportunity to continue working on the great architecture of the past, but from a contemporary perspective.

Developed in collaboration with the Atelier Kersten Geers at the Accademia di Architettura, Mendrisio, the Fotogalleriet, Oslo, Sir John Soane’s Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Stiftung Insel Hombroich, Neuss, the exhibition project not only revisited Raphael’s architecture on the five hundredth anniversary of his death but also, and most importantly, involved an operation of re-visioning his work. The approach is not based on historical documentary research nor is it didactic. “Rather” – Graziani explains – “the project aims to encompass all the possible shades of ambiguity pertaining to photography.”

Stefano Graziani worked on a complex subject and especially when it came to Raphael’s apparently elusive buildings. He observed how they changed over time and the process that transformed them into images. “By investigating the transformative power of photography” – Francesco Zanut writes – “Graziani highlights the altered nature of his subjects. In practice, none of them correspond to the works as seen by Raphael. We are thus dealing with the result of various events and modifications occurring over time. Restorations, renovations, reconstructions and new buildings based on original designs chart the distance between past and present.”



The fifteen large photographs on display, printed for the occasion by the photographer, also explore the concepts of restoration, archiving, conservation, exhibiting and of course “originality”, so keenly debated in the world of photography.

The photographs were taken in various places in 2020: the V&A’s Raphael Court and Prints and Drawings Study Room (London), the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche and the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche-ISIA (Urbino), the Palazzo Ducale (Mantua), St Peter’s Basilica (Vatican City), the Chigi Chapel in the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, the Villa Madama, the Stalle Chigi and the Scuderie del Quirinale (Rome) and the city of Trieste.

The exhibition has an official companion book, *Documents on Raphael*, edited by Francesco Zanot (NABA, Milan; Fondazione MAST, Bologna), and published by Mousse Publishing. The book includes 49 photographs by Stefano Graziani with commentaries by Guido Beltramini, Frank Boehm, Bruce Boucher, Pablo Bronstein, Antonio Cataldo, Emanuel Christ, Emanuele Coccia, Ana Debenedetti, Victoria Easton, Kersten Geers, Manuel Orazi, Maddalena Scimemi, Pier Paolo Tamburelli, Ellis Woodman and Francesco Zanot.

After the exhibition, the photographs will be kept in the Palladio Museum photographic collections, where they will be available for consultation by researchers and scholars.

The “School” chairs are courtesy of LAGO STORE Vicenza, official dealer for leading Italian interior designers LAGO.



## **STEFANO GRAZIANI**

Working at the intersection of photography, art and architecture, Stefano Graziani has made an unconventional contribution to the discourse on contemporary art. His photographs have been exhibited internationally by institutions such as the Fondazione Prada in Milan, the Venice Architecture Biennial and the European Art Biennial Manifesta. His work has been extensively published in monographs and collective books, and he himself authored or edited several of them. His works have been acquired by public and private collections such as the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), Montreal, the Fondazione Prada, Milan, the Museo Fotografia Contemporanea (MuFoCo), Cinisello Balsamo, the Fondazione Fotografia, Modena, and the MAXXI and the Istituto centrale per il catalogo e la documentazione (ICCD), Rome. He lives in Trieste and currently teaches photography at the Università Iuav di Venezia, the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA), Milan, and the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche (ISIA), Urbino.

## **THE EXHIBITION COMPANION BOOK**

### **Documents on Raphael. Stefano Graziani**

edited by Francesco Zanot

Mousse Publishing, Milan 2021

Languages: Italian and English

24 x 30 cm, 80 pages, 49 colour ils.

ISBN 978-88-6749-460-6

€ 27,00

### List of places

Loggia di Raffaello, Palazzo Pontificio, Vatican City

San Girolamo Octagon, St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

Prints & Drawings Study Room, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Raphael Court, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Palazzo Ducale, Mantua

Chigi Chapel, Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome

Gardens of the Villa Madama, Rome

Loggia of Cupid and Psyche, Villa Farnesina, Rome

Loggia di Raffaello, Villa Madama, Rome

Palazzo Alberini, Rome

Pantheon, Rome

Chigi Stables, Rome



Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome  
Trieste  
Galleria Nazionale delle Marche, Urbino  
Photography Studio, ISIA (Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche), Urbino

### Texts

*The Ghost Architect and His Hounds*, Guido Beltramini  
*Superworks*, Francesco Zanot  
*The Raphael Cartoons for the Sistine Chapel in the Victoria and Albert Museum*, Ana Debenedetti  
*Oblique Portraits*, Ellis Woodman  
*Nothing Seems More Photographic or Pictorial Than Love*, Emanuele Coccia  
*Velvet Drapes*, Pablo Bronstein  
*Hypothesis on the Clouds in the School of Athens*, Pier Paolo Tamburelli  
*Raphael's Chigi Chapel: A Spatial Reading*, Emanuel Christ  
*L'ossa con la carne, or Space is Not Enough*, Victoria Easton  
*Light from Above*, Bruce Boucher  
Grotesque, Manuel Orazi  
*Roman Architecture*, Kersten Geers  
*A Letter to the Youth*, Antonio Cataldo  
*In the Mind's Eye*, Maddalena Scimemi  
*Raphael's Spatial Fantasies in the Garden of the Villa Madama*, Frank Boehm

### **INFO**

Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10:00-18:00.

Admission included in the museum ticket:

tickets € 8,00 - concessions\* € 6,00 - schools\*\* € 2,00 - Palladio Family\*\*\* € 12,00

\* groups of min. 15, members of FAI and Touring Club Italiano, over 60, students under 25

\*\* schools, Touring Club Junior members

\*\*\* 1 to 4 children/teenagers under 18 with two adults

Free admission: children under 6, journalists, 1 disabled person + 1 helper, ICOM members, 2 accompanying teachers per class, members of Italian armed forces

The exhibition and museum is fully accessible to people with physical disabilities.

### **Palladio Museum**

contrà Porti 11, Vicenza

<https://www.palladiomuseum.org/exhibitions/raphael>

[accoglienza@palladiomuseum.org](mailto:accoglienza@palladiomuseum.org)

T. 0444.323014