



*Life and the Arts
in the Baroque
Palaces of Rome:*

*Ambiente
Barocco*

March 11–
June 13, 1999

The Bard Graduate Center
for Studies in the Decorative Arts

Life and the Arts in the Baroque Palaces of Rome: Ambiente Barocco

will be the spring exhibition at The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts. It will run from March 11 through June 13, 1999. Magnificent fine and decorative art works from Roman palaces will provide a dazzling illustration of the luxury of living during the Baroque period.

Loans for the exhibition have come from public and private collections in this country and Europe, including major pieces from the private holdings of Roman families for whom the objects were originally created. Many of the more than 100 works in the exhibition will be on public view for the first time in this country.

Most past studies of the Baroque period in Rome have been devoted to the papacy and the Vatican court. This exhibition is unique because it concentrates on the extraordinarily rich and varied social life and art patronage of the major aristocratic families of the city, such as the Barberini, Colonna, and Borghese.

The palaces of Rome were sites where visual and other art forms intermeshed, and—chairs, tables, mirrors, paintings, clocks, candelabra, sculpture, silver, musical instruments—all participated in a rich cultural exchange that engages the intellect in an intensely theatrical manner.

*Console Table, about 1660-80,
gilt wood, marble top
Memmo Collection, Palazzo
Ruspoli, Rome*

*Book Stand "Leggio," early 18th
Century, gilt and painted wood,
velvet, Colonna Collection, Rome*





This exhibition will focus on four areas: the highly ritualized audiences and receptions of visitors, feasts and banqueting, musical entertainment, and private worship. About 100 representative examples of carved furniture, silver, liturgical objects, and textiles dating from about 1600 to 1730 will be accompanied by a selection of drawings, prints, and paintings to evoke the appropriate settings.

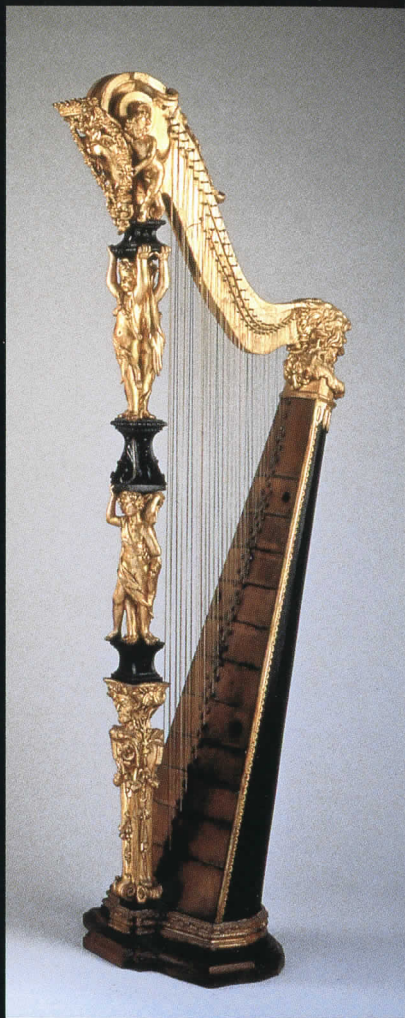
The curator of the exhibition is Stefanie Walker, assistant professor at the Bard Graduate Center. Frederick Hammond, Irma Brandeis Professor of Romance Culture and Music History at Bard College, will lead a parallel program of lectures, concerts, and performances.

After the exhibition closes at the Bard Graduate Center it will travel to the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, where it will be on view from July 25 through October 3, 1999.

The Catalogue

The exhibition will be accompanied by a scholarly catalogue, fully illustrated in color, and co-edited by Professors Walker and Hammond. It will include interpretive entries that document all objects in the exhibition and will be published jointly by the Bard Graduate Center and Yale University Press.

The catalogue entries will be preceded by seven essays by the foremost scholars in the field. The topics and their authors are: "Inside the Palace: People and Furnishings," by Professor Patricia Waddy, School of Architecture, Syracuse University; "The Artistic Sources of Roman Baroque Decorative Arts," by Stefanie Walker, assistant professor, Bard Graduate Center; "Setting the Noble Stage in Baroque Rome: Palaces, Political Contest, and Social Theater, 1600–1700," by Thomas Dandele, assistant professor of history, Princeton University; "The Creation of a Roman Festival: Barberini Celebrations for Christina of Sweden," by Frederick Hammond, Irma Brandeis Professor of Romance Culture, Bard College; "Invention and Reality in Roman Still-Life Painting of the 17th Century," by Dr. Eduard A. Safarik, director, Colonna Gallery, Rome; "The Prince's Defense: Collecting Arms and Armor in 17th-Century," Rome by Dr. Maria Giulia Barberini, curator, Museo Nazionale del Palazzo di Venezia, Rome and "Decorating the Palace: Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni in the Cancelleria," by Edward J. Olszewski, professor of art history, Case Western Reserve University.



*Barbarini Harp, 1623–34, wood, parcel
gilt and painted black, Museo Nazionale
degli Strumenti Musicali, Rome*

*Tapestry of Putti Playing with Birds, 1631–39,
Barberini Manufactory, Rome; Jacopo della
Riviera, weaver, Giovanni Francesco Romanelli,
designer, Museo Nazionale del Palazzo di
Venezia, Rome*





*Prie Dieu "Innocchiatoio"
with the Deposition of Christ,
17th Century, ebony, ivory, silver,
Colonna Collection, Rome*

*Mirror with a Sunflower
Motif, 17th Century, gilt
wood, Banca Nazionale
dell'Agricoltura, Palazzo
Rondinini, Rome*





Nocturnal Clock with the Flight into Egypt, about 1680-90, Pier Tommaso Campani, clockmaker, Francesco Trevisani, painter, ebony and other woods, oil painting on copper, gilt bronze, various colored stones, Musei Capitolini, Rome

*P*ublic Programs

The exhibition will be accompanied by a scholarly symposium and a series of associated concerts. Lecture topics will address various related themes. Courses on Roman Baroque decorative arts will also be a part of the continuing education curriculum for the period the exhibition is on view.

*Livery Uniform, 1638, black silk
velvet, gold embroidery, yellow silk
satin lining Castle, Český Krumlov*

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