Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities / Centro per la Storia dell’Arte e dell’Architettura delle Città Portuali

A partnership between
The Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History, Dallas
and the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, Naples

One of the world’s oldest cultural centers and one of the largest ports in Europe, the city of Naples is a node in a cultural and economic network that spans the Mediterranean and beyond. The history of art in Naples is one of encounter, exchange, and resistance, of rupture and unexpected convergence. It is above all a story of movement: of people, artworks, and forms, of technologies, traditions, and ideas. The complexity and dynamism of Naples’s history invites collaborative study across disciplines, and challenges us to envision new histories of art that range across geography, chronology, and medium.

A partnership between the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History at the University of Texas at Dallas and the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, the newly formed Center for the Art and Architectural History of Port Cities (Centro per la Storia dell’Arte e dell’Architettura delle Città Portuali) takes the city of Naples as a laboratory for innovative research that traces the global histories of art across time, place, and culture, while grounded in on-site study of works of art.

Housed within the museum’s bosco in an eighteenth-century agricultural building called La Capraia (the goat farm), the Center is dedicated to on-site study of art and architecture in Naples and to the incubation and dissemination of new research, with emphasis on the cultural histories of port cities and the mobilities of artworks, artists, and technologies. While focused on Naples, research at the Center informs understanding of port cities and other sites of cultural exchange throughout the world, from antiquity to the present.

Through Research Residencies for emerging scholars, regular site-based research workshops and seminars, and co-organized programs with partner institutions, the Center supports scholarly access to Naples, fosters research on Naples and on other port cities, creates a network of scholars working on related projects, and communicates new research to academic, museum, and public audiences.

Visit our website: https://www.utdallas.edu/arthistory/port-cities/