

Tiepolo: Triumphant Across Media Conference



Overview

The main focus of this conference involves two Kress Collection paintings housed in the Seattle Art Museum. Both paintings encapsulate Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's fulfillment of a commission at the Porto family palace in Venice that might have celebrated an esteemed military legacy. The Kress Reconstruction Project's cutaway reconstruction of *The Triumph of Valor over Time* oil sketch and a recent conservation treatment of the finished fresco painting of the same subject create the opportunity to evaluate findings related to these two works against the extensive body of research assembled by an international group of art historians, curators, and conservators.

Objectives

- Showcase Kress Collection paintings encapsulating concept sketch and final version of Orazio Porto commission
- To highlight new technical analysis and reconstruction of *The Triumph of Valor over Time* oil sketch

- To survey, evaluate, and build upon the large body of technical information on Giovanni Battista Tiepolo assembled by several museums in special exhibitions and publications
- To promote broader understanding of Tiepolo's working methods and materials
- To begin to define and address issues of integrity to materials and iconographical development posed by scholarship on the oil sketches and frescoes

Program Structure

Sessions could be focused on the following themes, with scholarly contributions relating but not limited to the points listed below.

1. Exploring the concept and interpretation of the chosen allegorical subject
 - What conclusions can be drawn from considering *The Triumph of Valor over Time* in the context of other allegorical, military-themed decorative cycles?
 - Does an historiographical study of the dismemberment of the Porto palace's eighteenth-century decorations in 1900 yield any new theories, discoveries, or pressing issues?
 - How do the theories and practices surrounding wedding commemoration in this era come into play with respect to this piece and its accompanying decorative program?
 - Consider the allegorical oil sketches as a cohesive group. What type of principles do they suggest about iconographical development in Tiepolo's oeuvre?
2. Doing comparative technical analysis
 - How does an analysis of scale and proportion contribute to understanding of Tiepolo's choice of supports and working dimensions?
 - Discuss integrity to materials with respect to Tiepolo's handling of oils and fresco. Does a guiding system emerge concerning ground preparation and stratigraphy?
3. Defining workshop practices and inherent issues specific to the Tiepolo workshop
 - How do the oil sketches as related to extant frescoes point to stages of design development, revision, and resolution?
 - In what ways does technical analysis of the sketches versus final works complicate arguments about the artist's hand and division of labor between Giovanni Battista and Domenico Tiepolo?

Resources

Internet Resources:

[Video: Conservator Nicholas Dorman restoring The Triumph of Valor Over Time fresco](#)
Seattle Art Museum

["Tiepolo Historical Reconstruction" on the Kress Reconstruction Website](#)

Books and Articles:

Brown, Beverly Louise. *Giambattista Tiepolo: Master of the Oil Sketch*. Milan and New York: Electa and Abbeville, 1993, cat. 44, 278–80.

De Grazia, Diane, and Eric Garberson. "Giovanni Battista Tiepolo." In *Italian Paintings of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, 259–308. Washington; New York: National Gallery of Art; Distributed by Oxford University Press, 1996.

Gaskell, Ivan. "Tiepolo in Madrid: The Fogg 'Aeneas' Sketch Investigated." *Harvard University Art Museums Bulletin* 1, no. 2 (1992-1993): 55–70.

Longyear, Teresa. "Giambattista Tiepolo: The Energetic and Fluent Brush." In *Giambattista Tiepolo: Master of the Oil Sketch*, Beverly Louise Brown, 64-78. Milan and New York: Electa and Abbeville, 1993.

Schwabe, Bettina, Sonja Seidel, and Ingrid Stümmer. "Vier Leinwandgemälde von Giovanni Battista und Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo." In *Tiepolo in Würzburg: Der Himmel Auf Erden*, Peter O. Krückmann, 148–159. Munich: Prestel-Verlag, 1996.

Staschull, Matthias. "Das Gewölbefresko im Treppenhaus der Würzburger Residenz." In *Tiepolo in Würzburg: Der Himmel Auf Erden*, Peter O. Krückmann, 128–147. Munich: Prestel-Verlag, 1996.

Zalbidea Muñoz, Antonia. "Giambattista Tiepolo: Estudio del Uso del Cartón." *Restauración & Rehabilitación* 87 (May 2004): 56–61.