

Arguzia/Natura/Artificio.

Contraptions and Ingenuity in Baroque Arts and Literature

International Conference 5 - 6 December 2024

Organized by Sonia Cavicchioli (Università di Bologna) and Elisa Antonietta Daniele (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, Università di Bologna/UCLA)

Dipartimento di Filologia Classica e Italianistica,

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

Palazzo Magnani, Bologna, via Zamboni 20, Sala Carracci

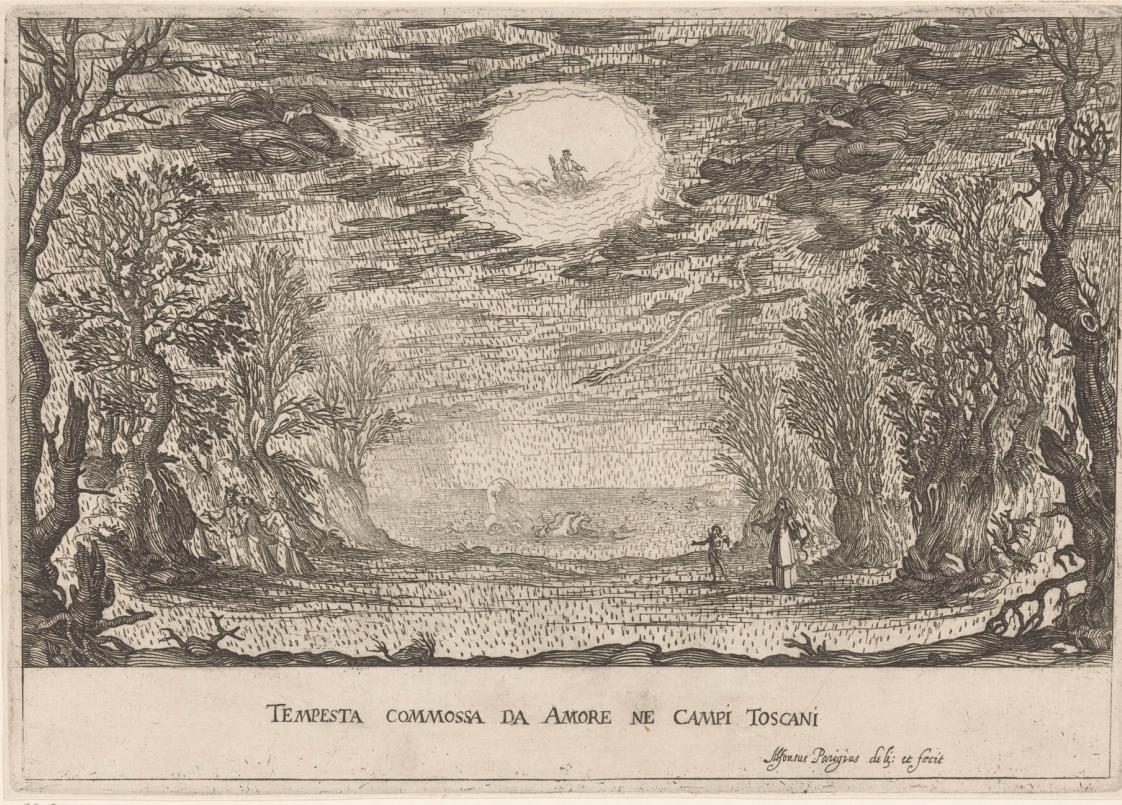


Image: Alfonso Parigi il Giovane, "Tempesta commossa da Amore ne Campi Toscani," print, 1628.
https://www.rijtsmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/RP-P-OB-22-424 (public domain)

'Art is the ingenious creator of works so witty' that they make 'Nature jealous', writes Emanuele Tesauro in his *Il cannocchiale aristotelico* (1654): theatrical machines that reproduce on earth the thunderstorms 'that Nature makes in the inaccessible workshop of the clouds', as well as 'swaying seas and fleeting forests' or 'puzzling birds that are not alive and yet fly'. This conference, held in Italian and English, explores the wit underlying the recreation of natural environments and the simulation of elemental and vital forces in Baroque arts, engineering, and literature. These 'Metaforiche operationi', which 'make those who see believe the unbelievable', reflected changing attitudes towards nature and artifice, varied relationships between humans and the natural environment – contiguity, resistance, coalescence – and they had potential and value as ways of contesting and making sense of inchoately shifting scientific, epistemological, and artistic paradigms.

Speakers:

Elisa Acanfora, Università degli Studi della Basilicata

Victoria Addona, Université de Montréal

Nicola Bonazzi, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

James Clifton, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Elisa A. Daniele, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

Marzia Faietti, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna / Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Federico Lanzellotti, Universität Basel

Lauro Magnani, Università degli Studi di Genova

Elisa Spataro, Sapienza Università di Roma

Angela Vanhaelen, McGill University, Montreal

Franca Varallo, Università di Torino

Bronwen Wilson, University of California, Los Angeles

Enrico Zucchi, Università degli Studi di Padova

Scientific Committee: Sonia Cavicchioli (Università di Bologna), Loredana Chines (Università di Bologna), Elisa Antonietta Daniele (Università di Bologna), Franca Varallo (Università di Torino)

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