



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN  
Department of History of Art and Architecture

# *Eighteenth-century Plasterwork in Ireland and Europe*

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Cornshool, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

The conference acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the Environment Fund of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9.30 am *Registration*

## SESSION 1

10.00 am **Is stucco just the icing on the cake?**  
Alastair Laing – Keynote Speaker

10.30 am **Before stucco: decorative plasterwork in England and Ireland 1550-1650**  
Claire Gapper

11.00 am **A baptism of fire: what the flames revealed. The plasterwork of Uppark and Prior Park**  
Ian Constantinides

11.30 am *Coffee*

## SESSION 2

11.50 pm **Stuccoes of the masters of the Lombard lakes**  
Andrea Spiriti

12.20 pm **Baroque stucco in Bohemia and Moravia**  
Martin Krummholz

12.50 pm *QUESTIONS*

1.00 pm *Lunch*

## SESSION 3

2.00 pm **Eighteenth-century stucco in Germany**  
Barbara Rinn

2.30 pm **Stucco and sterling: the earning power of *stuccatori***  
Christine Casey

3.00 pm **Masterpieces of rococo stucco in the Netherlands**  
Wijnand Freling

3.30 pm *Coffee*

## SESSION 4

3.50 pm **Cramillion and continental rococo**  
Joseph McDonnell

4.20 pm **Peculiar plaster: recent conservation of Irish eighteenth-century modelled plaster**  
Richard Ireland

4.50 pm **Plasterers and stucco-workers of the Dublin School**  
Conor Lucey

5.20 pm *QUESTIONS and DISCUSSION*



## CONTRIBUTORS

**Alastair Laing** read Modern History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. In 1968 he began a – regrettably, never completed – thesis on ‘The origins of South German Rococo stucco’ under Sir Anthony Blunt at the Courtauld Institute. The chief products of this have been *Baroque & Rococo: Architecture & Decoration* (1978), written with Anthony Blunt; ‘French ornamental engravings and the diffusion of the Rococo’, in *Le stampe e la diffusione delle immagini e degli stili*, ed. Henri Zerner, 1983; ‘Foreign Decorators and Plasterers in England’, in *The Rococo in England*, ed. Charles Hind (1986); and co-authorship of the two-volume *The James A. de Rothschild Bequest at Waddesdon Manor: Drawings for Architecture, Design, and Ornament* (2006). In 1986-87 he co-curated and wrote the catalogue of the Boucher exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Detroit Institute of Art; and the Grand Palais, Paris and since 1986 he has been Adviser/Curator of Pictures & Sculpture, The National Trust.

**Claire Gapper** studied architectural history and completed a PhD thesis at the Courtauld Institute of Art on London plasterers and plasterwork in the Elizabethan and early Stuart period. She continues to research, publish and lecture on this subject, which spans academic and conservation issues.

**Ian Constantinides** trained as a materials scientist with the Atomic Energy Authority before he founded St Blaise in 1980. St Blaise is one of the UK’s leading conservation firms working with the repair of historic buildings and the conservation of architectural works of art. He lectures and teaches extensively on RIBA/ RICS CPD programmes; universities offering post graduate MA courses in conservation; West Dean College, and elsewhere. His consultancy work includes conservation for Historic Scotland, the Office of Public Works, Dublin, English Heritage, and many private clients and professional practices

**Andrea Spiriti** is Professor of History of Modern Art at the Insubria University (Varese-Como, Italy) and Director of the museum of the church of St. Eustorgio in Milan. His studies are based on Lombard art from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, with emphasis on history of stucco, history of the artists of the Lombard lakes, history of patronage, relationships between Milan and Rome, iconography and iconology. He is author of some 150 articles and books.

**Martin Krumholz** holds a PhD in art history from Charles University in Prague. He teaches at the institute of Art History and Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and at the University of České Budojovice. He has received scholarships in England, Austria and Italy for his research on the Gallas family and the Clam-Gallas Palace in Prague by Johann Bernhard Fisher von Erlach which was published as *Clam-Gallasav palác. Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach. Architektura, výzdoba, život rezidence*, Prague, 2007. He has published widely and delivered numerous conference papers on interior decoration in the Czech Republic.

**Barbara Rinn** studied art history, archaeology and European ethnology in Kiel and London and in 1989 trained with a stucco restorer. Her PhD of 1995 was published as *Italienische Stukkateure zwischen Elbe und Ostsee. Stuckdekorationen des Spätbarock in Norddeutschland und Dänemark*, (Italian Stucco work of the late baroque between the river Elbe and the Baltic Sea) Kiel 1999. Since 1996 she has worked at the Freies Institut für Bauforschung Marburg – IBD Marburg and has lectured on stucco-history at the University of Kiel in 1999 and at the Fortbildungszentrum Johannesberg / Fulda. She has published extensively on German Stucco

**Christine Casey** is a senior lecturer in architectural history in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Trinity College. She has written widely on the history of Irish eighteenth-century architecture and is author and co-author of two volumes in the Buildings of Ireland series, *North-Leinster* (1993) and *Dublin* (2005). Her interest in plasterwork stems from a period as curator of the richly decorated Newman House in Dublin and from ongoing research on the phenomenon of migrant craftsmen in eighteenth-century Ireland and Europe.

**Wijnand Freling** is an architect and received his PhD from the faculty of architecture at the Technical University Delft. He runs a consultancy firm on the restoration of historical stucco and plasterwork and his portfolio includes the Hague townhall and Buitenhof, the Royal Palace Soestdijk and Zupthen old townhall. He has taught master stuccoists at the Dutch stucco guild. His doctoral dissertation was published as *Stucwerk in in het Nederlandse woonhuis uit de 17e en 18e eeuw*, (Stucco in the Netherlandish house of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries) Leeuwarden, 1996. He has lectured widely on the history of stucco and is a member of several conservation bodies in the Netherlands.

**Joseph McDonnell** has written on the fine and decorative arts including *Irish eighteenth-century stucco work and its European sources* (1991), *Art of the penal era* (1995) and *500 years of the art of the book in Ireland* (1997). He is currently completing a study of the destroyed book-bindings of the manuscript journals of the eighteenth-century Irish parliament with a detailed catalogue of the individual tools.

**Richard Ireland** is a conservation consultant and practitioner specialising in the repair, conservation and restoration of decorative plaster, architectural paintwork, wall and ceiling paintings. He works on a diverse range of buildings from mediaeval castles and churches, to the entrance hall and reading room of the British Museum and on to early twentieth century buildings. He lectures widely on the subject to academic and professional audiences through to the general public. He operates chiefly around the British Isles and Ireland as well as further afield.

**Conor Lucey** holds a PhD in art history from University College Dublin, and is the author of *The Stapleton Collection: designs for the Irish neo-classical interior* (2007), a study of the eighteenth-century Dublin stuccodore Michael Stapleton. He has recently been appointed editor of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*, the journal of the Irish Georgian Society.