

Eugenio Battisti and the Use of Photography in Art Historical Research and Teaching

Giovanni Rubino

Lecture, organized by the Research Group on Archives of Art Historians

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The lecture provides an overview of the two-year research project carried out at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, with a focus on the archive of the art historian Eugenio Battisti. It examines the slide library, Battisti's writings and his private correspondence in particular.

The research aimed to organise the slide collection according to the main themes of modern and contemporary art explored by Battisti and to provide a comprehensive understanding of his methodology for teaching art history as reflected in his critical thought.

The study analyses the relationship between the slide collection, comprising approximately 3,000 slides dating from 1970 to 1988, and the study of the visual arts during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It also considers the posthumous reorganization of the collection by Battisti's son, Francesco, and his wife, Giuseppa.

Finally, the lecture interprets Battisti's relationship with photography as being without precedent in the Italian academic context, emphasising its dual function as both a technical medium and a pedagogical tool.