

WALL PAINTING, CIVIC CEREMONY, AND SACRED SPACE IN EARLY RENAISSANCE ITALY

Wall Painting, Civic Ceremony, and Sacred Space in Early Renaissance Italy investigates how mural paintings affirmed civic identities by visualizing ideas, experiences, memory, and history. Jean Cadogan focuses on four large mural decorations created by celebrated Florentine artists between 1377 and 1484. The paintings adorn important sacred spaces – the Chapel of the Holy Belt in the cathedral of Prato, the monumental cemetery in Pisa’s Cathedral Square, and the cathedral of Spoleto – yet extoll civic virtues. Building on previously unpublished archival documents, primary sources, and recent scholarship, Cadogan relates the architectural and institutional histories of these sites, reconstructs the ceremonies that unfolded within them, and demonstrates how these sacred spaces were central to the historical, institutional, and religious identities of the host cities. She also offers new insights into the motives and mechanics of patronage and artistic production. Cadogan’s study shows how images reflected and shaped civic identity, even as they impressed through their scale and artistry.

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009535229
DOI: [10.1017/9781009535267](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009535267)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009535267](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009535267)

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Cadogan, Jean K., author.
TITLE: Wall painting, civic ceremony, and sacred space in early Renaissance Italy / Jean K. Cadogan, Trinity
College, Connecticut.
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2025. | Includes bibliographical
references and index. | Summary: "Focusing on four large mural decorations created by celebrated
Florentine artists between 1377 and 1484, this book investigates how mural paintings affirmed civic
identities by visualizing ideas, experiences, memory, and history. It offers new insights into the motives
and mechanics of patronage and artistic production"— Provided by publisher.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024057760 (print) | LCCN 2024057761 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009535229 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781009535236 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009535267 (epub)
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Mural painting and decoration, Renaissance—Italy—Themes, motives. | Mural painting
and decoration, Italian—Italy—Themes, motives. | Painting, Early Renaissance—Italy—Themes, motives. |
Art and society—Italy—Florence—History—To 1500.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC ND2755 .C33 2025 (print) | LCC ND2755 (ebook) | DDC 751.7/3094509024—dc23/
eng/20250127
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024057760>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024057761>

ISBN 978-1-009-53522-9 Hardback

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or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
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remain, accurate or appropriate.

This publication is supported by the William Ravenel Peelle, Jr. and
Agnes Stroud Peelle Art History Endowment of Trinity College.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a great pleasure to thank the many friends and colleagues who helped me research and write this book. My interest in mural painting was fostered by visits to scaffoldings during conservation projects. In Santa Croce in Florence, I was guided by Cecilia Frosinini and Maria Rosa Lanfranchi of the Opificio delle Pietre Dure, whose expertise and patience are unlimited. In Prato Cathedral, Mark Gittens of CBC Conservazione Beni Culturali revealed the complexities of Filippo Lippi's mural technique. Paolo Virilli of Tecnirico in Spoleto shared his expertise and images of the restoration of Lippi's murals in the cathedral and Isabella Lapi Ballerini of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali the conservation report for Agnolo Gaddi's murals in Prato. The Rome conference "Materiali e Tecniche nella Pittura Murale del Quattrocento" in 2002 was an inspiration to further research.

I have been welcomed in many archives and libraries, to whose professional staffs I am indebted. These include, in Prato, the Archivio di Stato and the Biblioteca Roncioniana; in Spoleto the Archivio di Stato; and in Pisa the Archivio di Stato, Archivio Capitolare della Primaziale, the Biblioteca di Filosofia e Storia of the University of Pisa, and especially the Archivio Storico Diocesano, Archivio Capitolare, whose archivist, Dottoressa Elisa Carrara, was unfailingly helpful. In Florence, I consulted the Archivio di Stato and the Archivio Storico dell'Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore, where Lorenzo Fabbri welcomed me. The Kunsthistorisches Institut as always was indispensable for my research, enabled by the kindnesses of Director Emeritus Alessandro Nova.

My colleagues Diane Cole Ahl, Paul Balolsky, Livio Pestilli, and Barbara Wisch read all or parts of the manuscript and offered incisive criticism. The two scholarly reviewers for Cambridge University Press read the manuscript with exceptional care and gave invaluable advice. Professor Dario Del Puppo and the late Jeffrey Kaimowitz, curator of the Watkinson Library at Trinity, helped with translations. Maria Ausilio Pisano provided the transcription of Filippo de' Medici's testament. Julia Damiano-Vicidomini copyedited an earlier version of the text, and Amanda Matava, Digital Archivist at Trinity College Library, assisted with images. I thank Beatrice Rehl at Cambridge

viii ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

University Press for her advice and encouragement and Liz Davey for her stewardship of the project.

I am grateful to Trinity College and the Fine Arts department for the many research leaves devoted to travel and writing. The William Ravenel Peelle, Jr. and Agnes Stroud Peelle Art History Endowment generously supported publication, allowing color illustrations and extensive appendices.

Last but not least, I thank my family, especially my husband, Alden Gordon, and Alex, Alden, Anna, Maya, Jessie, Asher, Aaron, and Talia for their love and support. This book is dedicated to them.