



Revealing Giuseppe Bossi: Conservation, Research, and Digital Enhancement

Academic Supervision

Chiara Palandri

RESEARCH UNIT

Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera

Research assistants

Elisa Albano – Conservator and Researcher

Serafina Pignotti – Conservator and Researcher

Project Staff

Irene Banfi – Conservator and Cataloguer

Miriam Ferrera – Photographer

Federica Iannuzzi – Photographer

Elena Passini – Conservator and Cataloguer

Marta Rizzato – Photographer

Matilde Spimpolo – Conservator and Cataloguer

Yusheng Zhan – Conservator and Cataloguer

Students of the School of Restoration – Educational and training activities

Project Overview

The project *Revealing Giuseppe Bossi: Conservation, Research, and Digital Enhancement* focuses on the corpus of **drawings** by **Giuseppe Bossi** (1777–1815) preserved within the **Historical Collections of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera**. Conceived as an integrated initiative encompassing **conservation, documentation, and research**, it aims to restore full legibility and understanding to this extraordinary graphic heritage.

The intervention, conducted by the **School of Restoration**, involves the **completion of conservation work** already initiated, which has engaged students in the preliminary stages of disassembly and initial cataloguing.

The project's primary objective is the **material and technological study of the drawings**, beginning with a **high-resolution photographic campaign**. This will include images taken in **visible, raking, and transmitted light**, designed to highlight the material structure of the sheets and to detect **watermarks** or other features from the paper manufacturing process. **Digital microscopy** will further contribute to the analysis of materials, particularly the types of paper and drawing media employed by the artist.

All collected data are entered into a **dedicated database** designed to integrate both technical and historical-bibliographic information concerning the drawings. Among other outcomes, this tool enables the **virtual reconstruction of Giuseppe Bossi's original sheets and sketchbooks**, offering new insights into the artist's methods for selecting and employing the materials available to him.

Another area of research concerns the **collectors' marks and inscriptions** visible on the drawings, which are analysed to trace the history of the works prior to their inclusion in the albums assembled around **1884** by the **Brera Academy**, following the **donation by Count Borromeo (1815–1885)**. These findings are also incorporated into the database, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the **conservation and collecting history** of the corpus.

The database is conceived as an **open and updatable tool**, capable of accommodating data on Bossi's drawings held in other collections as well. In this way, the project aims to establish a **dynamic, shared platform** that supports both scholarly research and heritage enhancement.

Finally, the project provides for the **revision of existing catalogue records** currently available on **SIRBeCWeb** and their **migration to the SIGeCWeb platform**, in compliance with the interoperability standards required by the **Italian Ministry of Culture's information systems**.