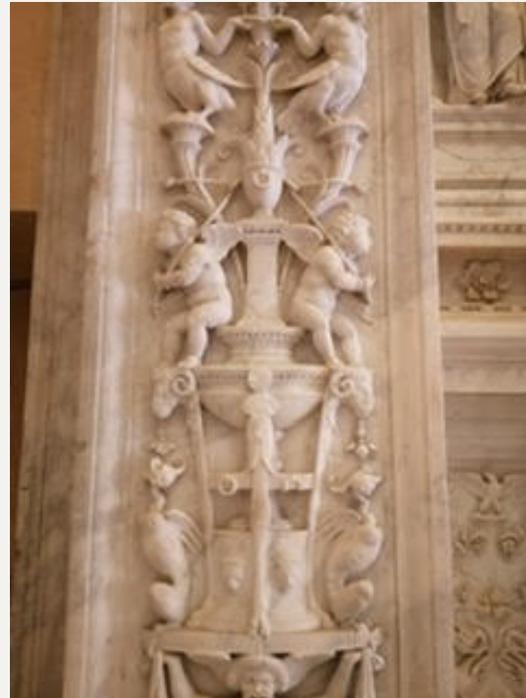


Carrara Marble in Renaissance Spain: Catholic Hegemony, Universal Monarchy, and Genoese Network

Grégoire Extermann

March 3, 6:00 pm

**CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES
Melville E-4340**



The largest European marble reserve, the Alps of Carrara, is close to the sea and not far from Genoa, the most important commercial hub of the Western Mediterranean a fact that favored its circulation. In the first half of the 16th century, Spain became a great client of this precious Italian material.

The talk explores the value and prestige of Carrara marble, as an all'antica material and as a device to express a new order: that of a universal monarchy and empire, which unify the Mediterranean Sea to the oceanic expanse

Grégoire Extermann

Born in Switzerland, Grégoire Extermann studied Art History, Italian Literature, and practiced Sculpture in Geneva. He completed several academic residencies in Italy, specifically in Rome, Padua, Florence and Genoa. Member of the Swiss Institute in Rome, he collaborated in monographic exhibitions of XIXth century sculptors. His research focuses on sculpture, marble trade, artistic networks, and cultural contamination in the Mediterranean and the Northern European area. Together with Ariane Varela Braga, Joris van Gastel (Universität Zürich), Marthe Kretzschmar (University of Vienna), and Anna Rath (University of Nuremberg), he founded a network dedicated on marble Studies from the Middle Ages to the Contemporary. He is currently working on a project on Carrara marble sculpture between Genoa and Seville financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation. He is preparing a monograph about the sculptor Guglielmo Della Porta (1510-1577) and a book on the collaboration between Lughanese sculptors and Genoese merchants in the 16th century.