

PRESS RELEASE
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Contemporary Roots

Tuscia craftsmanship enters Renaissance residences

From stone to marble, from wood to ceramics, from fabric to metal: Tuscia — a historic region of central Italy, north of Rome and known for its Renaissance heritage — returns to tell its story through the hands of its artisans. And it does so by choosing the most powerful path: the dialogue between past and present.

With Contemporary Roots, the CNA of Viterbo and Civitavecchia brings together nine master artisans from Central Italy into two iconic symbols of the Renaissance: Villa Lante in Bagnaia and Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola. An ambitious project coordinated by PromoTuscia with the support of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome and the Chamber of Commerce of Rieti-Viterbo.

The creations of ceramists, designers, tailors, jewelers and master woodworkers take their place among the monumental architectures of Villa Lante — one of the most refined examples of a 16th-century European Mannerist garden — and Palazzo Farnese, a sixteenth-century masterpiece with its pentagonal plan and richly frescoed rooms.

Not simply scenic locations, but internationally significant architectural landmarks.

Within these historic settings, contemporary objects engage in dialogue with proportions, geometries and materials, narrating a distinctly Italian story of continuity: the link between the artistry of past masters and the innovative vision of today's craftsmen.

"With these two extraordinary settings as a backdrop," says Attilio Lupidi, Secretary of CNA Viterbo and Civitavecchia, "the work of our companies is enhanced allowing their craftsmanship to express in both a compelling and professional way."

Objects that tell nine artisan stories and two territories

Each selected artisan represents a universe of their own.

Some mold the earth into contemporary ceramics; others shape wood following its grain as if it were a map. Some sew fabrics weaving together memory and research; others form precious metals through gestures handed down across generations.

These workshops are deeply rooted in the territory of Tuscia — a historic area of central Italy north of Rome — yet capable of speaking an international language made of quality, detail and material culture.

If Italian craftsmanship is recognized worldwide as a synonym of excellence, many contemporary protagonists are still waiting to be discovered by an international audience.

Contemporary Roots was created precisely to lift that veil.

Hands that think, creating objects that defy time.

The works presented in Contemporary Roots originate between Tuscia and Sabina, two areas of central Italy bound by an artisanal tradition that spans centuries.

In these hills — between Renaissance towns and green landscapes marked by volcanic stone and clay — craftsmanship continues to evolve while maintaining a deep relationship with the territory.

Ceramics is one of the oldest artistic languages of this area. Cinzia Chiulli – Percorsi Artistici presents a plate created using the zaffera technique, a precious decoration in intense blue relief that marks the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

The zaffera tradition, for which the Viterbo area is one of the main production centers, is also carried forward by Daniela Lai with her Bottega d'Arte. For this project, the ceramist presents a table in peperino stone, sculpted, glazed, painted and fire-inlaid with thick crystal inserts — a process that transforms the object into a furnishing element suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

Wood, a material deeply connected to the landscape of these hills, takes shape in the work of Luigi Cuppone, founder of Laboratorio Linfa and university lecturer. He creates objects and furnishings using exclusively reclaimed wood, transforming it into forms of strong contemporary inspiration suitable for any environment.

From woodworking to music the step is short. Andrea Di Maio, a master instrument maker, builds harpsichords and organs entirely by hand using fine woods and traditional techniques — instruments that today reach musicians and cultural institutions across many countries.

Tailoring tradition finds expression in the bespoke garments of Maria Vittoria Bordo. Her pieces, entirely handmade, combine freshness and refinement, and attention to detail becomes the signature of the young designer's work.

Alongside haute couture, the project also welcomes the language of contemporary design. Loretta Purgatori, with Dipende Design, works in the field of collectible design, creating furnishings that explore the relationship between form, function and aesthetic research.

The dialogue between innovation and artisanal craftsmanship is central to the research of Stilhaus, founded by Simone and Michela Bianchini, a company specialized in bathroom furnishings whose productions are objects designed to challenge time.

The narrative is completed by the world of jewelry. Roberta Pietrini, designer and artisan and founder of the brand Neloo, builds her work at the intersection of material research, experimentation and skilled craftsmanship. Through these processes she transforms natural and reclaimed elements into jewelry with a contemporary character. Among the materials used is also Brazilian capim dourado, known as “vegetable gold”.

From Sabina comes Irene Lupi, a young designer and founder of Curaes. Irene draws inspiration from her territory, reinterpreting stones and botanical elements and transforming them into jewelry with a modern and personal language.

Contemporary Roots is a microcosm of stories and expertise. The works of the nine artisans, displayed at Villa Lante in Bagnaia and Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola find the perfect stage for a visual narrative that celebrates both the uniqueness of each artisan and the connections that unite them.

About CNA Viterbo and Civitavecchia

CNA is one of Italy's leading associations representing small and medium-sized enterprises, with a strong focus on craftsmanship, local production and international development.

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