

METTERE MANO

REWORKING EARLY MODERN DRAWINGS

GERNSHEIM
STUDY
DAYS
2025

ROME
MARCH 4–7, 2025



DECAY, LOSS,
AND CONSERVATION
IN ART HISTORY

The 2025 Gernsheim Study Days are dedicated to all aspects of reworking, retouching, and repairing early modern European drawings, engaging with the role that these alterations play in sustaining paper objects over time, both materially and figuratively.

Few other media are as easily and as quickly altered as paper: folding, pasting, trimming, and bleaching require readily accessible tools and minimal expertise in their handling. Reworking by another hand – highlighting, retracing, adding or erasing marks – as well as archival and curatorial practices – mounting and re-mounting, inscribing, stamping, and annotating – can alter the drawing’s appearance, reception, attribution, and market value. This conference invites scholars, curators, and conservators to think critically about early modern practices of material interaction and manipulation as they applied to drawings.

The Gernsheim Study Days are connected to the Getty Paper Project “Touched/Retouched: Paper across Time, 1400–1800,” a collaboration with the Istituto Centrale per la Grafica, and the Research Exhibition “Rework, Retouch, Care: Case Studies from the Hertziana Collection” (March 2025).

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