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### **10th Annual SACI Consortium Meeting**

Photo above in the garden at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni: (ground level, left to right): **Gretchen Olson** (Drake University); **Sarah McCoy** (Drake University); **Katerina Ruedi Ray** (Bowling Green State University); **Dennis Farber** (Maryland Institute College of Art); **Fred Adelson** (Rowan University); SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**; SACI president **Mary Beckinsale**; (on steps, clockwise from top): **Kelly Norton** (High Point University); **Sam Olfano** (Marywood University); **Scott Raynor** (High Point University); **Don Kimes** (American University); **Robin Dru Germany** (Texas Tech University); **Nichole Maury** (Western Michigan University); SACI director of enrollment management **Sandra Mazara**; **Heather Elliott-Famularo** (Bowling Green State University); **Julie Barnes** (Bowling Green State University).

For full story, see page 5. (Photo by SACI student affairs coordinator **Chiara Tollerì**.)

## Notes from SACI's President



SACI president  
**Mary Beckinsale**

Student volunteering within the Italian community remains an integral part of the SACI experience. This fall, a number of SACI students participated in Florence's *Corri La Vita* (Run against Breast Cancer), a walkathon/marathon throughout the city's historic center sponsored by Centro Studio Prevenzione Oncologica and Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro i Tumori. Funds raised through this event were used to assist people who have undergone breast or intestinal surgery and to support the Fondazione Italiana di Leniterapia, which provides hospice care and pain-alleviating therapy.

Also in the Fall, SACI fresco painting students, under the direction of SACI instructors **Luigi Falai** and **Mario Passavanti**, painted a verse by a poet and retired Ponte a Niccheri Hospital physician on a wall in the hospital's Radiology area. The students also painted a large fresco of the Serristori Hospital in nearby Figline Valdarno. The fresco is in Serristori's Surgery waiting room, and has been much admired by the doctors and patients. During the same term, students in SACI's Advanced Painting class, under the supervision of SACI graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini**, painted tiles used to decorate bathroom walls in the Emergency Room area at Florence's Santa Maria Nuova Hospital, and Advanced Ceramics student **Lana Williams** (Fall 2008), with the guidance of SACI 3D area head **Lisa Nocentini**, used enamels to paint designs on glazed tiles that were then placed in bathrooms at Torregalli Hospital on the outskirts of Florence.

Congratulations to **Ulyssa Martinez** (Spring 2009) who is the recipient this term of the full-tuition *SACI Consortium Scholarship*, which is awarded each Fall and Spring semester to a student from one of the SACI Consortium schools (see page 5). A native of Houston, Texas, Ulyssa is a junior at Rice University, where she is majoring in art history. She has written research papers about bas-reliefs on the façade of Paris's Notre-Dame Cathedral and the social status of Chinese women painters from the 13th to the 17th century.

I am delighted to announce two very generous contributions. SACI trustee emeritus **Peter Sutro** has

donated to SACI over 100 zinc plates by the Italian artist Guido Colucci (1877-1949), a pupil of Giovanni Fattori. The MS Worthington Foundation has awarded SACI a major grant to cover costs for printing, framing, exhibiting, conserving, storing, cataloguing, and purchasing documentation related to these plates. A selected group of prints from the plates will be exhibited this spring in the SACI Gallery. We plan to expand the collection of texts in the SACI Worthington Library on Colucci and his wife, Edith Southwell, and to store in our library digital images of all of the plates and the etchings that SACI 2D instructor **Gary Lissa** will be making from them. We hope to print several short editions of Colucci etchings and to use the proceeds from their sale toward SACI scholarships.



**Guido Colucci**, *Firenze - Ponte Vecchio*, intaglio print, 25 x 33 cm, c. 1920

SACI has received a generous grant from the JQ Worthington Foundation that is enabling students in SACI's Conservation of Archaeological Objects course and their instructors to proceed with the restoration of artifacts from Picenian tombs. The restored objects will be exhibited at a museum in Italy's Marche, the region of their origin.

Donations such as these greatly aid SACI's goals of assisting in the preservation of Italy's cultural heritage and enhancing the quality of education for our students. We would be indebted to all readers of this newsletter who help us to achieve these aims by completing the pledge form on page 3 and sending a contribution to SACI. Your gift, whether large or small, will aid us in extending our outreach to the Italian community and enriching our students' educational opportunities—and it would be deeply appreciated.

# SACI Donors 2008

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*SACI also gratefully acknowledges the many cash and in-kind contributions given anonymously by our donors.*

## Studio Art Centers International (SACI)

is a United States non-profit 501 c (3) educational entity founded in 1975 and incorporated in 1976. SACI is a directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). SACI is additionally accredited for undergraduate and graduate US university-level study through its affiliation with Bowling Green State University in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

## Support SACI:

### What your support will help to accomplish at SACI . . .

A gift of \$2,000 can help to provide a scholarship to cover room, board, books, and supplies to one student for a term or semester.

A gift of \$1,000 can help to provide a scholarship of transportation to help bring an art student from a developing country to SACI.

A gift of \$500 can help to cover the expenses of hosting a prominent artist at SACI as an Artist-in-Residence.

A gift of \$250 can help SACI update and expand our library resources and books.

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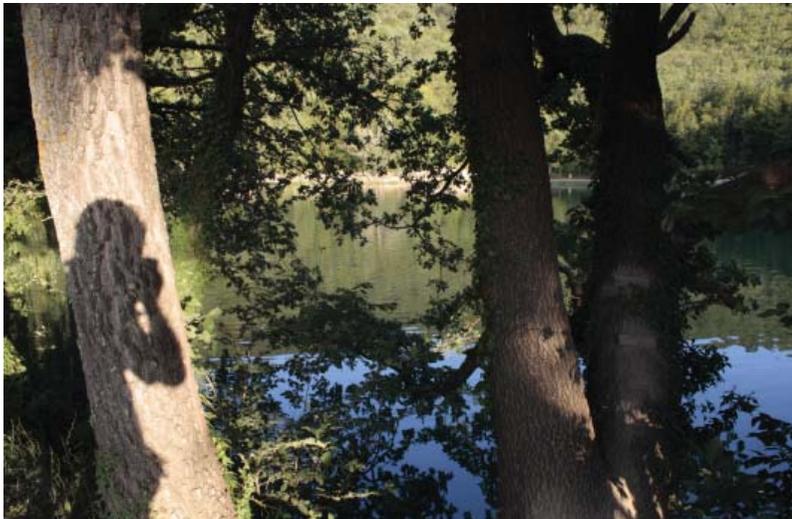
## SACI Faculty & Friends

Representing SACI at recent meetings of the International Association of Independent Art and Design Schools (AIAS) were SACI media area head **Romeo Di Loreto**, who in November 2007 attended the AIAS General Assembly at Zürich University of the Arts in Switzerland, and SACI sculpture and drawing instructor **Dario Arcamone**, who in late March and early April last year participated in an AIAS teachers' workshop at the PAN Art Forum Museum in Emmerich, Germany, hosted by ArtEZ AKI of the Enschede Academy of Visual Arts, Netherlands. At the General Assembly meeting, Romeo attended symposiums on *The "Academization" of Art Schools* and *Research in and through the Arts*. Following the workshop, Dario's sculptures were displayed at the PAN museum in a group exhibition of art made in Emmerich by workshop participants.

Last spring, SACI art history instructor **Daria Filardo** and her colleagues **Gina Gianuzzi** and **Cecilia Guida** curated *Fuori Contesto (Out of Context)*, a travelling exhibition of words used out of context. Phrases were affixed to large posters in public places with the intention of distracting people from their normal perceptions of daily life. 32 artists were asked to provide words instead of images for the posters. The exhibition was held in Bologna (during *Arte Fiera*), Milan (during *MiArt*), Faenza (during *Artecontemporanea*), and Fortezza-Bolzano-Trento-Rovereto (during *Manifesta 7*).

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On November 25, 2008, *Conversations with Jules Maidoff* (Angelo Pontecorboli Editore) was presented in the Sala Ferri at the Viesusseux Library of Florence's Palazzo Strozzi. This book of interviews on contemporary art practice that **Laura Castro** held with SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** includes photographs of Jules and his artwork by SACI Artists Council member **Amalie R. Rothschild** and an Introduction by **Dr. Elizabeth A. Sackler**. Jules was introduced at the presentation by **Edoardo Malagigi**, professor of design at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze. To obtain a copy of this book, contact: [info@pontecorboli.it](mailto:info@pontecorboli.it)



**Romeo Di Loreto**, *Self-Portrait #48*, digital inkjet print, 2008



**Dario Arcamone**, *untitled*, wood, plaster, and Xerox transfer, 70 x 70 cm, 2008

A JQ Worthington Foundation grant enabled SACI conservation instructor **Nora Marosi** to attend a workshop in May on *3D Modeling in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage* at the International Summer School in Archaeology in Ascona, Switzerland.

Artwork by SACI graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** has been featured in *Magis* (published by Morgana Edizioni), which contains texts by 40 authors, including honorary SACI board member **Cristina Acidini**, Soprintendente del Polo Museale Fiorentino, and images of artworks by 13 contemporary artists. In late February and early March this year, Lorenzo will be "Artist-in-Presence" and hold a solo mixed-media presentation at Hiram College, where former SACI painting instructor **Chris Ryan** (MFA 1999-2000) is now an Assistant Professor of Art.

In May, SACI art history and museology instructor **Maria Antonia Rinaldi** traveled to Belgrade to curate at the Italian Cultural Institute *Geography of Gestures*, an installation of video works by **Virgilio Sieni**. She recently wrote an essay on performance and installation art that was included in *Kinkaleri: La scena esauta (The Exhausted Scene)*, a collection of writings on contemporary art that was published in November by Ubulibri.

## Consortium News: 10th Annual SACI Consortium Meeting

From November 19 to 22, administrators and faculty members from SACI Consortium colleges and universities throughout the USA met at SACI in Florence for a series of discussions and events coordinated by SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**. Participants attended sessions exploring ways to establish stronger ties between SACI and Consortium schools. SACI area heads spoke about SACI's graduate, 2D, 3D, media, design, conservation, and crafts areas, and SACI administrators discussed SACI's on-line application; how students select and enroll in SACI classes; accommodations available to SACI students; and the process by which students are nominated for and awarded the full-tuition *SACI Consortium Scholarship*. The sessions culminated in a lively discussion of "Cutting Edge Art Study Abroad" and an announcement by Jules that, starting in Fall 2009, SACI would offer a special Design Futures Seminar which, in exploring different contemporary design issues each semester, will serve—in conjunction with courses such as SACI's new Contemporary Furniture Design class—to underpin an integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to design study (see page 8).

Participants toured SACI's main educational facility at the Palazzo dei Cartelloni; the SACI Graduate Center; the SACI Design Center; SACI student housing; and SACI's newly acquired 16,000 square-foot Renaissance palazzo, two blocks from the Duomo in Florence's historic center, which, in 2010, will become the site of SACI's Design/Multimedia Center, Graduate Center, and provide additional classrooms, studios, darkrooms, and administrative offices.

The sessions concluded with a guided tour by the curator of *The Medici and Science: Instruments and Machines in the Grand-Ducal Collections* at the Museo degli Argenti in Florence's Palazzo Pitti. This exhibition, which is part of Florence's *Galileo Year* commemorating Galileo's use of the telescope 400 years ago, included many instruments from the collection of Galileo's devoted pupil Vincenzo Viviani, who had built the Palazzo dei Cartelloni, SACI's main building. The next day the group visited La Specola and saw the original Florentine collection of anatomical waxes and studies begun in the 18th century, which is open to all students who wish to draw from this remarkable collection. The tour was followed by a farewell lunch at a nearby *trattoria*, during which Jules announced that the recipient of the first annual *SACI Consortium Award* is **Dr. Elizabeth Cole**, executive director

of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD) and former associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), who established the *Elizabeth S. & Gary L. Cole Scholarship in Art* in support of BGSU students seeking to study abroad.

Attending were **Fred Adelson** (Rowan University); **Julie Barnes**, **Heather Elliott-Famularo**, and **Katerina Ruedi Ray** (Bowling Green State University); **Dennis Farber** (Maryland Institute College of Art); **Robin Dru Germany** (Texas Tech University); **Don Kimes** (American University); **Nichole Maury** (Western Michigan University); **Sarah McCoy** and **Gretchen Olson** (Drake University); **Kelly Norton** and **Scott Raynor** (High Point University); **Sam Olfano** (Marywood University); and **Stacey Shimizu** (Illinois Wesleyan University)—all of whom received personalized *Certificates of Attendance* for participating in the 10th Annual SACI Consortium meeting.

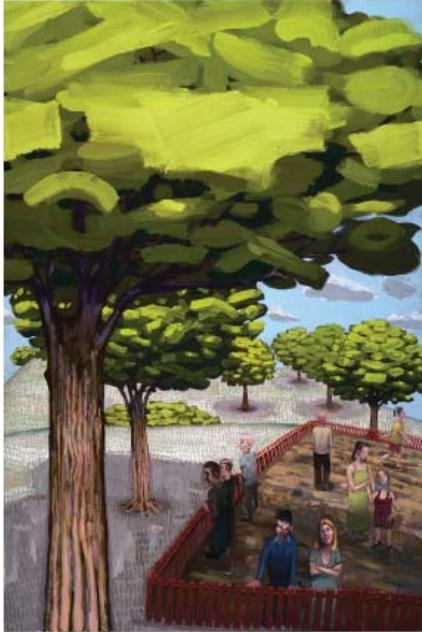


### Summer Non-Credit Study at SACI

During the Summer term, it is possible to enroll at SACI as a non-credit student and take one class selected from SACI's courses in studio art, design, art conservation, art history, and Italian language. Non-credit students attend classes along with regularly-enrolled students and have full use of the SACI Worthington Library and computers for word processing, e-mailing, and Internet research. They can also attend SACI lectures, gallery openings, open drawing sessions, film nights, and Sunday field trips to sites throughout Tuscany. Participants can choose to attend from **July 2-July 19** or **July 2-August 1**. For more information about Summer Non-Credit Study at SACI, visit the Study Programs section on the SACI website: [www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)

## Alumni News

**Stephen Benenson** (Post-Bac 2003-2004) writes of his time at SACI, “That year in Florence turned out to be a pivotal one for me, as I am sure it is for many of



**Stephen Benenson**, *The City*, acrylic, oil, and collage on canvas, 3.5' x 6.5', 2007-8

the people who have the good fortune to go there.” Now living in Portland, Maine, Stephen’s artwork was recently featured in a two-person exhibition at Portland’s Whitney Art Works. A portfolio of his paintings and drawings can be viewed at: [www.studiobuilding.com/benenson/index.php](http://www.studiobuilding.com/benenson/index.php)

**Daniel Dallabrida** (Post-Bac 2007-2008) returned to Italy in October to represent SACI at the opening of the *15th Annual Edgardo Mannucci International Sculpture Competition* organized by the Altavallesina-Grottefrassassi Rotary Club. The exhibition, which ran for two weeks at the Casa del Pane in Milan’s Piazza Oberdan, included sculptures by Daniel, **John Wesley Todd** (Spring 2008), **Jacquelyn Walther** (Spring 2008), and other students from art schools in Italy, Greece, and Albania. In November, photographs of Daniel’s environmental installation *Traversata: My Conversations with the River Arno* were on display at the Hunters Point Shipyard in San Francisco. The photos, writes Daniel, “capture a few moments of a 7-month dialogue conducted at the Ponte d’Annibale (Hannibal’s Bridge), a brawny, broken medieval bridge hidden in a deep valley south of Florence.” More information about Daniel can be found at: [www.dallabrida.com](http://www.dallabrida.com)

Inspired by his time in India, watching the patterns of ants swarming around anything edible, **Christoph Hueppi** (Fall 1995-Spring 1996) created a series of paintings entitled *Swarm Intelligence* which were featured last spring in a solo show at galleryHOMELAND in Portland, Oregon, where Christoph was the first international participant in the Aubrey Residency Program. A Swiss artist who currently lives in Zürich, last September Christoph visited Florence, where he attended the opening at the Marino Marini Museum of a one-person exhibition of works by SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**. Christoph’s artwork can be viewed at: [www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/yourgallery/artist\\_profile/Christoph+Hueppi/44371.html](http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/yourgallery/artist_profile/Christoph+Hueppi/44371.html)

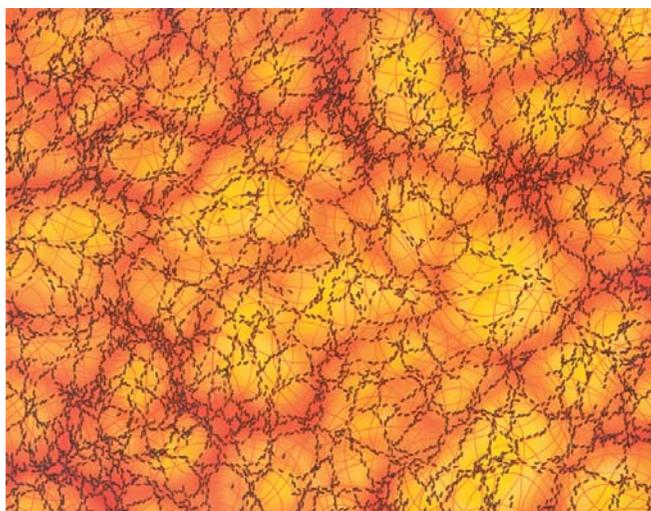
6 *Death of Salvador Dali*, a short film by **Delaney Bishop** (Fall 1992), has been screened worldwide and garnered numerous awards. It was shown this fall at New York City’s Museum of Modern Art. Named a *Surface Magazine* “Avant Guardian” in 2005, Delaney has shot campaigns for GUESS by Marciano and photographed celebrities such as Jessica Alba. His films, commercials, music videos, and photos can be seen at: [www.delaneybishop.com](http://www.delaneybishop.com)

“I first discovered my passion for the Renaissance,” writes Bowling Green State University Assistant Professor of Art History **Allie Terry** (Fall 1994), “by exploring the city and countryside of Italy as a SACI student. Last summer, I taught an art history course at SACI, called ‘Art, Performance, and Ritual in Italy,’ in which the majority of class time was spent within the architectural and urban spaces of Florence. On their very last night in Florence, a group of students in the class created their own ritual, ‘Hopscotch in Paradise,’ which connected the ritually charged area between the Baptistry and the Duomo (deemed ‘Paradise’ by Michelangelo) with a series of choreographed steps.” In Late Spring 2009, Allie will again be “opening students’ eyes to the past” when she returns to teach this unique course at SACI.



**Daniel Dallabrida**, *Beneath the Earth, Beyond the Sky 5*, installation with ground terracotta, charcoal, water, and stone at Ponte d’Annibale, River Arno, Incisa Valdarno, September 2007-March 2008

In October, **Frieda Lefebber** (Spring 1993) visited SACI with news about her first book—a memoir entitled *Frieda's Story* (2003, Xlibris), which she wrote after graduating from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts when she was 83-years-old. Born in Germany during the First World War, Frieda describes what it was like to grow up Jewish under Hitler's regime. She writes of her escape from Germany and experiences as a foreigner in the USA—and of the joys and talents that can be discovered unexpectedly even late in life. At 93, Frieda continues to explore her artistic potential. She's currently taking classes in sketching and portrait painting at Rosemont College near Philadelphia.



**Christoph Hueppi**, *Swarm Intelligence I*, acrylic on canvas, 100 x 120 cm, 2008

"I've just started curating shows at the Plenum Space Gallery in the Kansas City Crossroads," writes **Charlotte Eisel Matthews** (Fall 2004-Spring 2005). "It's an alternative gallery space in a building housing artist studios and apartments. I'm always looking for artwork and a means of directing more traffic to the gallery. If you'd like to submit artwork for show consideration, please e-mail images (or a web URL), resume, and artist statement to: plenumspacekc@gmail.com."

*Desués de Durer (After Durer)*, an exhibition of etchings by **Eduardo Fausti** (Fall 1993), was held last spring at the Museu de Arte de Cascavel in Brazil, then traveled to Curitiba and Rio de Janeiro. Eduardo, who was born in Argentina and has been a resident artist in Belgium, Italy, and Morocco, now lives in New York City, where his works are in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. To see more of Eduardo's paintings and etchings, visit: [www.biddingtons.com/content/creativefausti.html](http://www.biddingtons.com/content/creativefausti.html)



**Eduardo Fausti**, *After Durer V*, aquatint and shellac on handmade abaca paper, 18" x 23" (edition of 15), 2004

"I have very fond memories of my time in Florence," writes **Greg West** (Fall 1980). "I remember once we were drawing at the Bargello and this stonemason was repairing the threshold of the doorway. He had a homemade cap he folded from some brown paper. He came over and made some suggestions on the drawing I was working on. Can you imagine that happening in the US—not likely!" These days Greg owns a vintage clothing business and works as a film costumer (most recently on *The Lovely Bones*). "I have a ten-year-old boy," he writes, "named Jasper (after Johns) who is always astonishing. I hope he will get to do what I did and study abroad."

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#### To All SACI Alumni

SACI alumni can access contact information for fellow alumni by logging on to the Alumni Directory in the Alumni section on the SACI website—[www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)—and inserting the following:

Username: **alumni** Password: **florence**

To make your own contact information available in the directory, please e-mail: [alumni@saci-florence.org](mailto:alumni@saci-florence.org)

#### SACI Teaching Assistantships

SACI invites alumni to apply for Teaching Assistantships in the following areas: Photography, Conservation, and Art History. Completed applications must be received at SACI by **May 1**. For information about how to apply, see the Alumni section on the SACI website:

[www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)

## New SACI Courses

SACI's newest course offering, *Contemporary Italian and European Furniture Design: Theory and Practice*, is a Spring term studio class that will culminate in a multi-day field trip to Milan's International Furniture Fair (*Salone Internazionale del Mobile*), which is normally open only to design professionals. This unique course has been developed as part of SACI's intention to expand our design area to include subjects of critical interest to future designers, architects, artists, and others. All SACI students will be able to enroll in an integrated group of design courses that emphasize issues, such as sustainability, which are crucial to an understanding of 21st-century design. Beginning in the upcoming academic year, SACI will offer each Fall and Spring two complementary courses - *Design Futures: A Seminar* and *Eco Design Studio* - in which students from all disciplines will be encouraged to transcend conventional barriers in confronting challenges faced by contemporary designers. Participants will work together to question, discover, invent, and solve design problems within a globally sustainable context. The courses, which will jointly explore different 21st-century design issues each term, and can be taken together or separately, will feature guest lectures by leading architects, designers, writers, and theorists as well as field trips to major design shows and fairs in Florence and elsewhere in Italy.



International Furniture Fair in Milan (photo by Saverio Lombardi Vallauri)

Also beginning in the next academic year, SACI will offer three Animation courses, developed in collaboration with SACI alum **Kathy Smith**, who is Chair of the John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts at the University of Southern California: *2D Digital Animation* (Fall), *Introduction to 3D Digital Animation* (Spring), and *Ideation for Animation* (Spring). These courses, which will be taught by visiting USC instructors, will be open to all SACI students. The 2D course will focus on fundamental principles of working in 2D digital software with an emphasis on animation, story, sound, timing, and execution. The 3D course will concentrate on character animation and the fundamental principles of working in 3D computer software with an emphasis on animation, performance, lip-syncing, timing, and execution. The Ideation course in pre-production will explore how lateral thinking can work across boundaries to discover underlying principles related to ideation: the act of becoming an agent of ideas.

More information about these and other SACI courses can be found on SACI's website: [www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)

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