

Stefano Riccioni

The Visual Experience of the Triumphant Church:  
the Mosaic of S. Maria in Trastevere



SCIENZE E LETTERE  
ROMA 2021

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	XI
INTRODUCTION	1

### CHAPTER 1

#### FRAMING THE CHURCH REFORM IN ROME

<i>1.1. The 'Gregorian' Reform</i>	5
<i>1.2. Anacletus II and Innocent II</i>	8
<i>1.3. The Arts and the Church Reform</i>	15
<i>1.3.1. Rome: the Model</i>	15
<i>1.3.2. Outside Rome</i>	21
<i>1.4. The Visual Experience</i>	26

### CHAPTER 2

#### S. MARIA IN TRASTEVERE

<i>2.1. Historical Sources</i>	39
<i>2.2. Architecture, Restoration, and Conservation</i>	46
<i>2.3. Mosaic Conservation</i>	50

**CHAPTER 3**  
**THE MOSAIC DECORATION**

<i>3.1. Apse Arch: the Apocalypse and the Prefiguration of Christ</i>	53
<i>3.2. Inscriptions</i>	56
<i>3.3. Rethinking Antiquity - The Amorini</i>	59
<i>3.4. The Intrados</i>	60

**CHAPTER 4**  
**THE MOSAIC DECORATION: APSE CONCH**

<i>4.1. The Glory of the Triumphant Church</i>	63
<i>4.2. The Symbolic Sky and the Shadow</i>	64
<i>4.3. The Central Message: Visualizing the Church</i>	67
<i>4.4. Speaking Images of Cantica Canticorum</i>	71
<i>4.5. The Mosaics of the Cavetto. The Echo of a Nuptial Procession?</i>	78

**CHAPTER 5**  
**THE APSE CONCH: EXPERIENCING THE VISUAL MESSAGE**

<i>5.1. The Feast of the Assumption</i>	81
<i>5.2. The Image of Mary</i>	82
<i>5.3. The Icon of Christ</i>	85
<i>5.4. The 'Codex' and the 'Volumen' as the Visual Voice of Christ and Mary</i>	88
<i>5.5. The Image of St. Peter, between Antiquarianism and Papal Symbol</i>	89
<i>5.6. Saints, Martyrs, and Popes: The Eulogy of Trastevere</i>	91
<i>5.6.1. The Ecclesiastical Garments</i>	93

**CHAPTER 6**  
**THE RHETORIC OF COLORS**

<i>6.1. The Arms of the Church on the Triumphal Arch</i>	99
<i>6.2. The Color of the Frames</i>	102
<i>6.3. The Colors of the Clothes and the 'Poetry' of Light</i>	103
<i>6.4. The Connecting Labels</i>	108

**CHAPTER 7**  
**THE INSCRIPTION IN THE APSE AS EXEGETICAL SYNTHESIS OF THE**  
**DECORATION**

<i>7.1. The Rhetorical Experience of the Triumphant Church</i>	111
MANUSCRIPTS AND DRAWINGS	113
BIBLIOGRAPHY	114
ILLUSTRATIONS	149