



GIOVANNI CASTRUCCI, VIEW OF PRAGUE CASTLE AND THE LESSER TOWN, 1606, MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS IN PRAGUE

# TALKING STONES

## OBJECT AND MATERIALITY IN EARLY MODERN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PRAGUE, 17-18 APRIL 2026

Academic Conference Center  
Institute of Art History  
Czech Academy of Sciences  
Husova 4, Prague 1

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Organised by  
Studia Rudolphina Center IAH CAS  
Collecting Central Europe  
The Medici Archive Project

Scientific Committee  
Sylva Dobalová - Markéta Ježková  
Andrea Gáldy  
Alessio Assonitis - Gaston J. Basile -  
Federico Giglio

# PROGRAMME

To book a place, please contact [collectingcentraleurope@gmail.com](mailto:collectingcentraleurope@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY, 17 APRIL 2026**

**10.45 WELCOME**

## **NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION**

**11.00-12.30**

CHAIR: **ANDREA GÁLDY** (CCE PLATFORM)

**ALICE FORNASIERO**, UFR ARTS, LETTRES, COMMUNICATION, UNIVERSITÉ RENNES 2, RENNES:  
Gemstone Trade between Bohemia and Italy through Diplomatic Routes and Networks

**BELINDA GRANATA**, ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI, NAPOLI:  
Hardstone Paintings in Motion. Materiality, Mobility, and Diplomatic Exchange: Daniele da Volterra's David and Goliath

**ORSOLYA BUBRYÁK**, INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY, ELTE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES, BUDAPEST:  
Gems on the Move: Baron Edelstein and a Roman Imperial Cameo in the Networks of Early Modern Diplomacy

**LUNCH FOR SPEAKERS [12.30-13.30]**

**13.30-15.30**

CHAIR: **ALESSIO ASSONITIS** (THE MEDICI ARCHIVE PROJECT, FLORENCE)

**ANJA KATHARINA FRISCH**, GERMANISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM NUREMBERG:  
The circulation of medieval English alabaster sculpture in Central and Eastern Europe

**ĐURĐINA LAKOŠELJAC**, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR:  
Lost Splendour: Archival Records of Precious Jewellery in Fifteenth- and Early Sixteenth-Century Šibenik

**LAURA MARTÍNEZ CAYADO**, UNIVERSITY OF MURCIA:  
Luxury, Gold, and Gemstones: Catherine de' Medici's Gifts in the Context of Marriage Negotiations with Vienna

**MATTEO PROTO GHIRINGHELLI**, UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA, ROMA:  
Collecting between Moravia and Siena: Materiality in Exchanges between Ippolito Agostini, Karel of Žerotín and Jan Šembera

**COFFEE / TEA [15.30-16.00]**

## **MATERIALITY AND COLLECTING**

**16.00-18.00**

CHAIR: **SYLVA DOBALOVÁ** (IAH CAS)

**MICHAŁ MENCZFEL**, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY POZNAŃ:  
The Jagiellonian Jewels, or Paradoxes of Polish Collecting Culture

**ELLA CAMPBELL**, ROYAL NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE IN ROME:  
Ovid on Stone: Searching for New Meaning on Antonio Tempesta's Painted Mythologies on Lapis Lazuli

**MARTIN MÁDL**, INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY, CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PRAGUE:  
"AETITES lapis est veluti prægnans..." Eagle-Stones between Magic and Practice

**DRINKS AND DINNER FOR SPEAKERS**

**SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2026**

**MATERIALITY CONTINUED**

9.00-10.30

CHAIR: **SUZANNA IVANIČ** (SCHOOL OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF KENT)

**ÁGNES SZABÓ**, INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY, ELTE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES, BUDAPEST:  
Diplomacy of Precious Textiles decorated with gemstones in Late Medieval and Early Modern Hungary

**MIRJAM WIEN**, UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT:  
A Crucifixion Group's Many Lives. Materiality in Context in Early Modern Sibiu

**JANA ZAPLETALOVÁ**, DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY, FACULTY OF ARTS, PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLOMOUC:  
The Amethyst Grottoes of the Archbishop's Château in Kroměříž: Precious Stones and the Self-Representation of a Late Seventeenth-Century Ecclesiastical Aristocrat

**COFFEE / TEA [10.30-11.00]**

**RUDOLF II'S COLLECTIONS**

11.00-12.30

CHAIR: **PAULUS RAINER** (KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN)

**CORINNA GANNON**, STÄDEL MUSEUM, FRANKFURT AM MAIN:  
Painting on Alabaster - Painting with Light. Hans von Aachen's Allegory and Portrait of Rudolf II

**IVO PURŠ**, INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY, CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PRAGUE:  
The Dead Christ Lamented by Angels by Hans von Aachen (1552-1612) and the Alchemical Christ-Lapis Parallel

**BORBÁLA GULYÁS**, INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY, ELTE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE HUMANITIES, BUDAPEST:  
A Heliotrope Deluxe Bookbinding of the Prague Kunstkammer

**LUNCH [12.30-14.00]**

14.00-16.00

CHAIR: **MARKÉTA JEŽKOVÁ** (IAH CAS)

**EDGAR LEIN**, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR, GRAZ:  
A Sapphire for Emperor Rudolf II

**DIRK WEBER - ULF KEMPE**, STAATLICHE KUNSTSAMMLUNGEN DRESDEN, GRÜNES GEWÖLBE - TU BERGAKADEMIE FREIBERG:  
A Precious, Hitherto Unrecognised Lidded Bowl by D. Miseroni and H.R. Taravell in Dresden

**HELEN BUDDENSIEG**, PRINCELY COLLECTIONS LIECHTENSTEIN, VADUZ-VIENNA:  
The Pietre Dure Works for Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein

**SUZANNA IVANIČ**, SCHOOL OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF KENT:  
God's Instrument: Bohemian gems, efficacy and medicine

**Break [16.00-16.15]**

16.15

**PAULUS RAINER**, KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM, VIENNA:  
Do Stones Matter? And if so, why?

**DISCUSSION ANDREA GÁLDY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**