



CEILINGS

THE MAGIC OF FRESCOED SKIES

Stefano Zuffi - Luca Sassi

The book

The presence of frescoes and painted scenes on ceilings is an extraordinary and sometimes undervalued feature of the history of great painting and decoration. Sometimes objective visual difficulties hinder our knowledge of the marvels unfolding above our heads: between the XV and XVIII centuries especially, vaults, ceilings and domes were interpreted by great masters as boundless fields for their imagination, and often they exploited perspective tricks to multiply spaces, opening them towards the sky or marshalling them in serried illusionist architectures. This volume presents a series of fantastic images in which painting and architecture are interwoven in an unexpected union, where reality and illusion merge continually on a plane of illusory reality.

From the renowned "oculus" painted by Mantegna in the centre of the Spouses' Chamber in Mantua to the luminous creations of Giambattista Tiepolo, this volume invites us to discover the secrets and charm of extraordinary pages of creativity: a refined photographic reproduction technique with large-format images, obtained from the digital reconstruction of ceilings that would otherwise not be visible in their entirety, makes it possible to "see" sacred and profane ceilings in a clear and comfortable way for the first time, alternating famous works with frescoes conserved in private villas and palazzi where public access is limited.



The author

Stefano Zuffi (1961), a Milanese art historian, specialized in museology, collaborates with museums, institutions and associations for the organization of exhibitions and the development of cultural projects. He is the author of specialist essays and studies of Renaissance and Baroque painting, but especially of countless popular works on art and history, translated and distributed all over the world. His books of greatest success include *La pittura italiana* (1997, new edition 2005), *Dürer* (2001), *Il grande atlante della pittura* (2002), *Episodi e personaggi del Vangelo* (2002), and *Il Cinquecento* (2005), all published by Electa. He is also a scientific consultant for this publishing house for the realization of widely distributed editorial series.

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