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**From Destruction to Construction. Natural Disasters and Art Making in Early-Modern Italy**

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The project I am developing at the Italian Academy investigates the interdependence of natural disasters and art-making in the early modern period. Through a series of case studies ranging from Italy to the New World, the research explores the impact of destruction caused by natural hazards on artistic development, the transformation of the urban space and its social perception. On the one hand, it aims to analyse the material response to catastrophes (rebuilding modes, monumentalisation of ruins, repurposing of fragments); on the other hand, it considers the social and conceptual implications of disasters, including questions of loss and memory.

In dealing with these issues, the research seeks to engage with modern theoretical frameworks developed in response to most recent catastrophes, translating some of their core questions into a historical perspective. This *long-durée* approach aims to evaluate cultural- or period-specific responses to disasters and their evolution over time.

The project builds upon the research conducted at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-Planck-Institut during the past academic year and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.