

## Events

45<sup>th</sup> UID Conference

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The 45<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers, Congress of Unione Italiana per il Disegno (UID), promoted the close collaboration between the University of Padua and the luav University of Venice in promoting the dialogue, the sharing, and the planning linked to the science of drawing. In three intense days of study, the two cities hosted more than 350 scholars (including professors, researchers, PhDs, designers and drafters), from Italy and as well as from other countries. They exchanged views, reflecting on the notion of measurement and/or unmeasurement related to the discipline of drawing.

The Call for Papers invited in-depth exploration of the wide range of declinations of the proposed topic, based on the assumption that knowledge of the dimensions of what has to be represented is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for establishing a scientific relationship between an artifact and the phenomenal world, both in the operations of investigation and analysis of the existing as well as in the stages of conception, design and prototyping of artifacts.

The units of measurement, which we currently employ today, reflect epistemological and cultural patterns informed by the scientific progress of

research, as well as the outcomes of its discoveries. Since antiquity it has often been man and the human body that have fulfilled the role of model and module for the proportioning of architecture. The same concept can be extended as far as the works of celebrated masters, such as Le Corbusier and Terragni, for example, in a kind of yearning for perpetuable harmony over time. However, measurement is not the exclusive prerogative of architecture, for numerical and proportional features also invest other fields, such as music, mathematics, geometry and poetry.

Today, design representation is increasingly linked to the development of generative parameterization algorithms, with applications that allow one or more numerical values to be modified to verify the formal effect produced by new measurements. In parallel, the obsession with data control, coupled with the crisis of anthropocentrism, produces an excess of measurements that are often ungovernable: a 'disproportion of measurements', a proliferation of numerical data that address physical dimensions, but which the human intellect increasingly struggles to understand and qualify as a whole. The design of planetary-scale infrastructures and the many discoveries of intelligences, collective and non-human

(animal, plant and artificial), force reckoning with measurement excess and new challenges to represent and understand what previously appeared as unmeasurable.

Whether the act of measuring requires traditional human action or relies on the presence of algorithmic tools with which to interact, the drift of unmeasurement can reach into immensity in design practices ranging from architecture to engineering, product design, communication and fashion design, and even break free in the visual and performing arts.

The numerous contributions selected by the organizing committee were distributed in three focuses: *Ideating: prefiguration and configuration* (34 contributions, 28 Italian and 6 foreign); *Knowing: observation and deduction* (78 contributions, 70 Italian and 8 foreign); and *Narrating: description and interpretation* (86 contributions, 73 Italian, 13 foreign).

The proposals of the UID conference participants were all collected in the volume published by Franco Angeli of the conference proceedings. The result is a tome of almost four thousand pages, edited by Francesco Bergamo (coordinator), Antonio Calandriello, Massimiliano Ciammaichella, Isabella Friso, Fabrizio Gay, Gabriella Liva and Cosimo Monteleone [Bergamo et al. 2024].



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45° Convegno Internazionale dei Docenti  
delle Discipline della Rappresentazione  
Congresso della  
Unione Italiana per il Disegno

MISURA / DISMISURA

MEASURE / OUT OF MEASURE

Padova | Venezia 12-13-14 settembre 2024

Fig. 1. Event banner

The conference opened in the prestigious Bo palace in Padua, welcoming first in the hall dei Quaranta, then in the main hall, the guests. The institutional greetings included the participation of the rector of the University of Padua, Daniela Mapelli, and the rector of the luav University of Venice, Benno Albrecht, sealing the fruitful collaboration between the two universities in Veneto and between the two cities whose cultural relations are rooted in centuries. To underscore the close collaboration between the two universities, after institutional greetings, Andrea Giordano, director of the Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering at the University of Padua, and Giuseppe D'Acunto, pro-rector of education at luav University, both promoters and organizers of the conference, spoke at the same time. The plenary session was closed by UID honorary president Mario Docci and UID president Francesca Fatta, who was just this year concluding her three-year term. Massimiliano Ciammaichella, Cosimo Monteleone and Fabrizio Gay then interbenched, who presented the three focuses. From *Devising* focus, themes emerged that extended from the measure or disproportion

of the conceptual prefiguration of the creative act to the physical and digital survey of natural and anthropic space, without neglecting timely insights related to the extent and potential of artificial intelligence, the fleetingness of sound, the rule and boundlessness of the clothed body.

The focus *Knowing* raised the issue of the concept of measure or unmeasure from the scale of detail in artifacts to the cosmic dimension of astronomical models, tracing examples of illusory or immersive space, probing archival heritage, and addressing visual and human body disability as a tool for measuring the geometry of visual and nonvisual space.

The third focus, *Narrating*, was introduced by Fabrizio Gay, who highlighted its issues related to the measurement of scopic narratives that reveal morphometric errors, the relationships between the aesthetic and the inesthetic, as well as many other aspects related to drawing practices.

The conference, therefore, crystallized the state of the art of the specificities of drawing act to measure the measurable as well as the abnormal and the unmeasurable, including through new methodologies and novel tools. Simultaneously

from the results of the conference, possible contradictions emerged, framing questions and challenges to which we are called to act with increasing urgency, collaborating with other disciplinary fields in setting strictly measured or unmeasurable goals, but relevant to the knowledge and to the safeguarding of the world that surrounds us.

Moving from the Bo, right in the center of Padua and historical heart of its university, to the monastic complex of Santa Caterina, current headquarters of the Department of Statistical Sciences, the selected papers were distributed over the two days in five parallel sessions, each moderated by two chairs, who introduced the topics and took questions addressed to the speakers. At the end, the outcomes of 198 research papers by scholars from Italian, European and intercontinental universities were presented.

The opening talk of the session, *Ideating: prefiguration and configuration*, was given by Marco Beltramini, director of the Centre for the Study of Perception and Art (CArPe), who with lucidity, expertise and irony, addressed the topic of vision and illusory images. Manuela Rossi, director of the Museum of the

City of Carpi, Palazzo dei Pio, introduced the session *Knowing: observation and deduction* by emphasizing the intense collaboration, active since 2010, with the University of Padua for the reconstruction of the urban and architectural transformations of the city of Carpi by means of VR and AR physical 3D modeling. Finally, for *Narrating: description and interpretation*, Toto Bergamo Rossi reviewed some highlights of *Venetian Heritage*, the *nonprofit* organization he founded that has become an international foundation dedicated to the preservation, restoration and promotion of Venetian historical and artistic heritage in the lagoon and mainland domains, in collaboration with local superintendencies and the UNESCO-International Private Committees for the Preservation of Venice program. Bergamo Rossi's talk shifted the attention to Venice, thus anticipating the third and final day, which took place in the lagoon city at the Tolentini Convent, the historic headquarters of Iuav University. During the last day, alongside the institutional greetings of vice rector Anna Saetta, the main hall welcomed Marco

Tirelli's *lectio magistralis*, introduced by Angela Vettese. The Roman artist recounted his work, emphasizing how his works arise, first and foremost, from mental places traversed and made evident by light. Dwelling on the most important installations and exhibitions, numerous images were projected in sequence to document the artist's intense activity, appreciated by the public and critics nationally and internationally. With passion and emotional involvement, Tirelli dwelt on graphic and sculptural techniques that physically translate a wholly personal flow of thoughts and concepts. His painting rests on the connection between light, shadow and memory. Light reveals images, fragments of reality that the artist captures and rereads in essential forms that slowly emerge from the dark backgrounds of the canvases. The painted figures are not pure and simple abstract geometric forms, rather mental architectures, places in which the artist translates the real. The images of the visible, exhibited in their essentiality, whether objects or architectural interiors, appear in the light endowed with volume, a physicality

defined by *chiaroscuro* and perspective vision. Admiration and devotion to the artist resulted in the awarding of the UID 2024 gold plaque.

The other UID 2024 gold plaque was assigned to Andrea Giordano, with reasons read by president Francesca Fatta. In the general commotion, also increased by Francesca Fatta's end-of-term greetings and thanks, the day ended while the president awarded the best paper prizes to the speakers of the individual sessions: for the session *Devising* Daniele Colistra was awarded with the contribution *Measuring the sign. Symbols and Signs for Contemporary Music Notation*; for *Knowing*, the tied papers of Alessio Buonacucina, Prokopios Kantas, Graziano Mario Valenti, *Conjugate Geometries: hyperboloidal core gears*, and Marta Salvatore, *Around the Volute. Just and Easiest Measure of Diminishing Pitch*; for the *Narrating* session, two best papers were awarded to Paolo Belardi, *Measures and Disparity: the Street Soccer Field as a Place of Regeneration* and Matteo Flavio Mancini, *Measuring the Infinite. Space and perspective between Piero della Francesca and Andrea Pozzo*.

## Reference List

Bergamo, F. et al. (eds.). (2024). *Misure/out of Measure. Devising Knowing Narrating. 45<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers Congress of Unione Italiana per il Disegno. Proceedings 2024*. Padua-Venice 12-14 September 2024. Milan: FrancoAngeli.

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