



Geneviève Michela Porpora, who goes by **Geneviève**, is an anthropologist, researcher and writer who founded, publishes and directs CORA magazine (www.rivistacora.it), a national monthly on Italian embroidery, lace, fashion, customs and popular traditions, dedicated to Countess Cora Slocomb Savorgnan di Brazzà. She graduated with a degree in Humanities and Philosophy with a focus on historical-artistic anthropology and the conservation of artistic assets. She has lived and worked in Perugia, in the region of Umbria in central Italy. For many years she has been involved in research to rediscover, promote and preserve local and national arts and crafts, with particular reference to the applied or “minor” arts, including fabrics, lace, embroidery, and historical and popular costumes.

In this process, she has also gained practical knowledge of the workmanship and decorative techniques that are involved. She is an expert member on call for the Thesis Committee of the Department of Art History, which is part of the Faculty of Humanities and Philosophy of the University of Perugia. With the Perugia Chamber of Commerce, she is also on the register of experts on textiles and clothing, with particular reference to textile restoration. Since she has always been interested in recovering and spreading these unique works, particularly among young people and socially vulnerable groups, while also creating employment opportunities in the niche sector of the minor and applied arts, she has planned, organized and overseen numerous conventions and professional training courses, including transnational European initiatives, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Equal Opportunity, local organizations and public institutes of higher education, where she works as an expert and professor.

Since 1998 she has been charter member and president of *Arti Decorative Italiane* (www.artidecorativeitaliane.it), a historic cooperative established in the 1920s by the Marchesa Romeyne Robert Ranieri di Sorbello. Since 2004 the cooperative has had an agreement with the Faculty of Humanities and Philosophy of the University of Perugia to offer internships to interested students. In 2000 she launched the project entitled “*Le Industrie Femminili Italiane. Una Rete Culturale per lo Sviluppo Economico Territoriale*”, aimed at creating a network to circulate artistic craftsmanship in Italy and around the world. As part of this, in 2002 she published a book by the same title, and in 2007–9 put out three brochures sponsored by the Province of Ragusa, and the Municipalities of Comiso and Vittoria (Sicily). In 2005, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Institute of Culture of Strasbourg, she launched a two-year project to set up regular regional exhibitions representing the maximum expression of Italian artistic craftsmanship and, specifically, the embroidery and lace of the different Italian regions.

She has received numerous awards, including four plaques from the Presidents of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi (March 2005 and March 2006) and Giorgio Napolitano (November 2006 and September 2007) for the cultural and educational commitment she has shown in her fields of expertise. On 31 August 2006 she became charter member and president of the *Unione Italiana Artisti Artigiani* (www.uniarti.it), a national association whose aim is to convince the government to give legal and juridical recognition to the niche sector of artistic craftsmanship, tradition and the applied arts, as a way to promote and protect the activities conducted part- or full-time by artists and artisans. In the wake of the path of the dynamic countess Cora Slocomb Savorgnan di Brazzà, Geneviève has reestablished *Le Industrie Femminili Italiane* (www.leindustrie-femminili-italiane.it) and the annexed *Scuola Internazionale di Merletto, Ricamo e Arti Applicate Cora di Brazzà* (www.scuolacoraadibrazza.it).



As an author, she has published numerous works, including books, essays and articles published in well-known periodicals (www.edizioniartidecorativeitaliane.com– www.edizionicora.it). From 2007 to February 2008 she collaborated with RAKAM magazine with her own monthly column devoted to embroidery with Bach flowers. From January 2012 she edited an insert published in the monthly magazine of restoration of antiques “Cose belle antiche e moderne”.

Her publications include:

- *Le Bambole presentano: I Costumi della Valle d'Aosta*, 1996
- *L'altra faccia dei Musei. Un percorso a ostacoli tra raccolte e collezioni private con esempi di catalogazione di materiale etnografico*, series no. 7 of “Quaderni Culturali”, 2003–4
- *Le Industrie Femminili Italiane. Una rete culturale nazionale per lo sviluppo economico territoriale*, 2002

Ph. 1 Il Punto Umbro nella Collezione Ugucione Ranieri di Sorbello Foundation, 2004

Umbrian Stitch in Ugucione Ranieri di Sorbello Foundation Collection, 2004

- *Sotto il vestito Pizzi. Esposizione di Antica Biancheria delle Nobili Famiglie del Piceno*, 2005
- *Dizionario Enciclopedico di Lavori Femminili*, 2007 (orig. ed. 1941, Petrali Castaldi L.)
- *L'Opere Leggiadre*, 2007 (original eds. 1926 and 1940, by Petrali Castaldi L.)
- *Il ricamo. Raccolta completa di lettere, cifre, monogrammi ed altri lavori ad ago*, 2008

Ph. 2 Nappe, Nappine e Bottoni della Scuola del Pischello di Romeyne Robert Ranieri di Sorbello, 2010

Tassels, small tassels and buttons of the School of Pischello of Romeyne Robert Ranieri di Sorbello, 2010

- *L'Agenda di Cora. Cultura, Impresa e Origini della Creatività Femminile in Italia*, 2011

Ph. 3 Punto Umbro Black & White. Antichi disegni per un nuovo stile: “l'Op-Art”, 2011

Umbrian Stitch in Black & White. Ancient drawings for a new style: the “Op-Art”, 2011

- *Le origini della Creatività femminile in Italia. Le Industrie Femminili Italiane. Il caso Ars Umbra*, 2011.



- Rome, left and above - Geneviève Porpora exhibited her art on craft projects to the Chamber of Deputies with lawyer Giuseppe Pio Torricollo.
 - Three books written and published by Geneviève Porpora dealing Ancient Umbrian Sorbello or Portuguese stitch.

