

# TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

The importance of craftsmanship in Latium, particularly in Rome, it's deduced by observing the most ancient districts of the capital. The streets, which were once dedicated to the various jobs, make you realize how, starting from the Middle Age, the artisans, who gathered in universities and brotherhoods, tended to open their shops next to one another, for a sort of solidarity of work and to have a better boldness in the provisioning of raw materials.

During the centuries, in Latium, it developed two types of craftsmanship: one rotated around the Church and the nobility, and it contributed to the realization of the immense works of art, whilst the other developed to satisfy the needs of the poor.

There are different types of craftsmanship. Latium is typically known for the workmanship of metals, like ladles, saucepans, but also works in beaten iron of notable quality in Tivoli, Latin, Veroli and Tarquinia.

The craftsmanship of the wood is very common as well, especially for furnitures and rustic objects.

Inspired from the Etruschis are the utensils in terracotta, which are still being made in Ciociara and northern Latium.



# Craftmanship in Ancient Rome

In Ancient Rome the craftmanship was produced for the most part by slaves that were exploited. They did the same operations an exceedingly amount of time which was certainly unhealthy for a human being. There were craftmanship workshops that were under the control of the state for prices. There were small work groups in some part of the city and there weren't places to work at, in fact they were very rare and you could only find them in the countryside. Craftsmen used to fix and craft new objects.

There were craftsmen that could be rich but their position didn't rise in the social class. Sometimes craftsmen can be helped to reach a

higher position with the help of someone important, like an operator. They were in poor conditions because the economy of that time was based on farming and on the possessions of fields.

There were also craftsmanship for females, mainly based on weaves, hairstyles, flower works and ovens.

Craftsmen used to work on daily objects but they worked on some valuable objects as well, like pottery's objects for cooking and eating or mosaics.

There were different types of craftsmen depending on the type of craftsmanship.

The craftsmanship in Ancient Rome is not too different from nowadays craftsmanship.

## **100 Christmas Crib exhibition**

Each year the "100 Christmas crib" exhibition hosts some 150 nativity scenes from Italy and from more than 40 other countries.

The denomination "100 Presepi" is only a historical reference which refers to the number of cribs exhibited in the first editions.

The cribs, which are completely renewed every year, come from almost every Italian region and from about 25 foreign countries.

These works are made by Italian and foreign artists and artisans, collectors, elementary and middle school students, representatives of cultural and social associations, state and local bodies and national and foreign museums.

The materials that are used to make these beautiful works are many, for example clay, wood, silver, glass, bronze and even recycled materials. They're also made with food, like chocolate, bread, corncobs, corn, shells of seafood, pasta and much more.

The cribs can have different sizes: they vary from the miniature format to those at eye level.

The static or moving cribs have different settings: from the classic ones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Neapolitan and Sicilian) and nineteenth century (Roman), to those futuristic expressed with crystals, iron and colored lights or imaginative car engines, televisions, and more.

The exhibition is housed in the impressive Sale del Bramante, inside the Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo.



*“100 Presepi crib exhibition logo drawn by Alessia”*