

# Ralf van Bühren

Dr. phil., Dr. theol.  
Professor of Art History and Architectural History



## Teaching

since 2006 at the  
Pontificia Università della Santa Croce  
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### *Religious studies*

- Christian Art and Architecture in Rome. From Antiquity to the Present (in English, open only to students of other universities)

### *School of Communication*

- Visual Rhetorics. Christian Art as «locus theologicus»
- Semiotics of the Visual Arts as Communication Media
- Methods of Guided Tours in Cities, Museums, and Churches
- Pastoral Attention to Religious Tourism: Visual and Verbal Communications
- The Relevance of Art History to Cultural Journalism
- Cultural Heritage of the Church: Conservation, Promotion, Management, Legislation, Formation, Training of Experts

### *School of Theology*

- History of Liturgical Art and Architecture. From Antiquity to the Present (*Institute of Liturgy*)
- Christian Art and Sacred Architecture. Modern and Contemporary History (1420–2023) (*Department of Church History*)

## Personal data, academic degrees

born February 3, 1962 in Bad Kreuznach (Germany)

2006 **Dr. theol.** in **History of the Church** at the Pontifical University of Santa Croce, Rome (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Roma)

2003 **Licentiate** in **History of the Church** at the Pontifical University of Santa Croce, Rome (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Roma)

1994 **Dr. phil.** in **Art History** at the University of Cologne, Germany (Universität zu Köln)

1991 **Magister Artium** in **Art History** at the University of Munich, Germany (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

## Research areas

- Visual Studies and Art History
- Religious Tourism. New Media Communications and the Implications of Mixed Interests
- Vatican Council II (1962–1965) and the Arts. Documents, History and Reception
- Church Architecture in the Renaissance and Baroque. The Impact of Liturgical Reforms during the Council of Trent
- Liturgical Art. History, Mystagogical Understanding, and Liturgical Formation
- Pastoral Attention to the Cultural Heritage of the Church (Internet, Liturgical Mystagogy, Guided Tours, Popular Piety, Catechesis, Sermon, Religious Education, Social Media)
- Popes and Artists in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. From Pius X to Francis
- History of the Catholic Church's Magisterium on Art and Artists (Ecumenical Councils, Apostolic See, Synod of Bishops, Bishops' Conferences)

## Languages

German, English, Italian, Spanish, French (writing, reading, and speaking)