

Giuseppe Valeriano

Valeriano or Valeriani
(L'Aquila, 1526 - Naples, 1596)
Italian painter, architect and Jesuit

He trained at home at Pompeo Cesura, then started working independently in 1542 (at just 16 years old) and, moving to Rome, he painted the frescoes and the altarpiece in the Ascension Chapel in Santo Spirito in Sassia. Then he moved to Spain, perhaps to carry out his own novitiate, where he had new commissions that put him perhaps in relationship with the construction site of the Escorial palace.

In Spain, however, in 1572 he entered the Society of Jesus and in 1575 he was found in the Probation House of Medina del Campo. He spent another period in Lisbon before returning to Italy at an unspecified time between 1579 and 1581.

Upon his return Valeriano became a sort of official superintendent for the Order's factories. Among other things, the construction of the Chapel of the Madonna della Strada in the Church of the Gesù in Rome and of the Roman College designed by Ammannati followed. It is doubtful to identify his design contribution to these works, even if it seems to have played a role in the project for the construction of the Jesuit Palace in Lecce. On his design, the Church of the Gesù in Genoa and the Church of the Gesù Nuovo in Naples were built, both based on a central plant but with the longitudinal axis slightly strengthened by the addition of a span towards the facade.

He was also in Monaco to collaborate in the construction of the Church of San Michele designed by Federico Sustris.

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