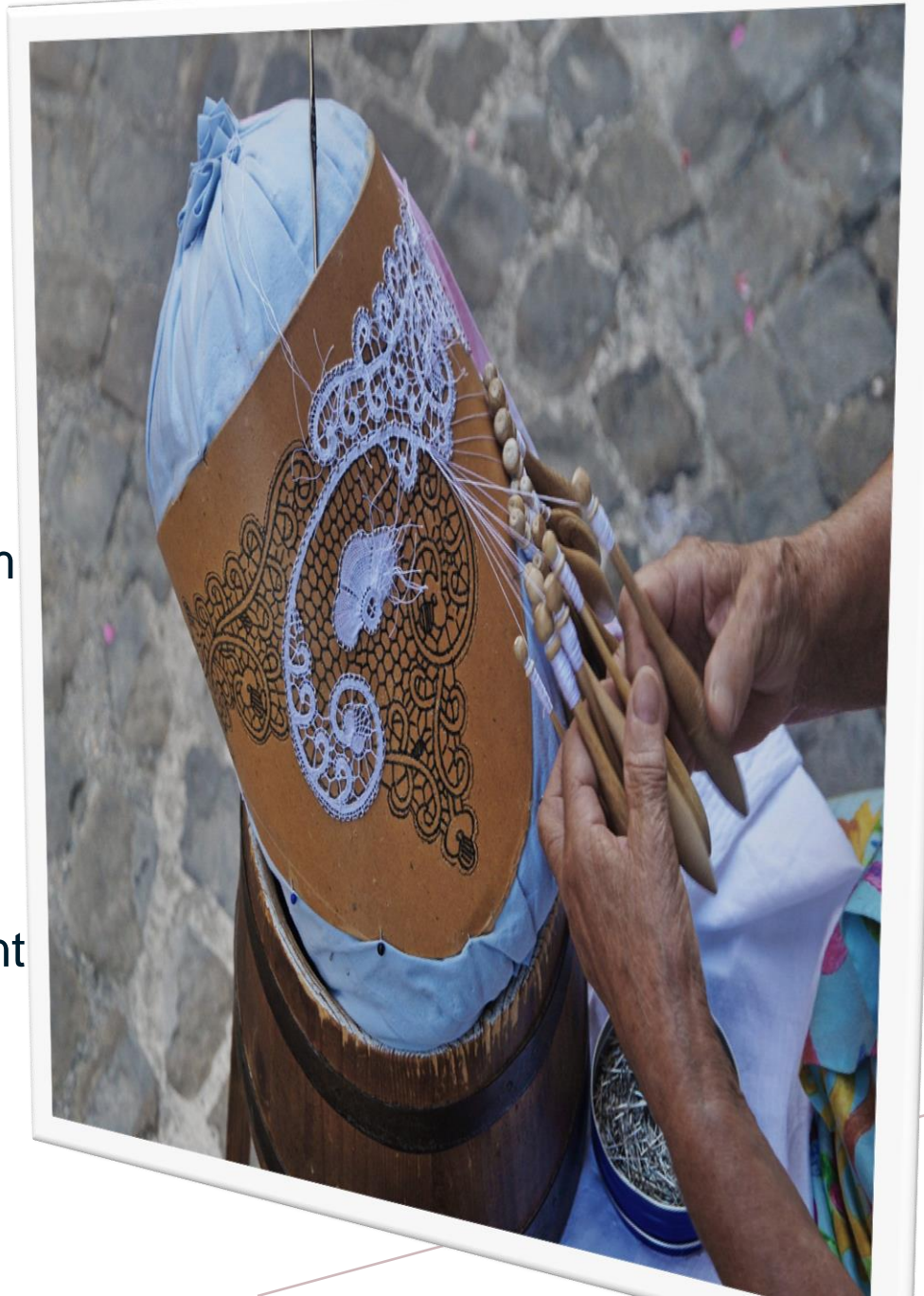


# THE CERAMIC

CALTAGIRONE CERAMICS IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SICILIAN HANDICRAFTS. ITS ORIGINS ARE VERY ANCIENT. ACCORDING TO EXPERTS, ARAB POTTERS, SINCE 827, FOLLOWING THE MUSLIM CONQUEST OF THE ISLAND, WOULD HAVE SETTLED HERE AND WOULD HAVE GIVEN A STRONG IMPULSE TO CERAMIC ART, WITH THE TECHNICAL PROCEDURES USED IN THE EAST. THE DISCOVERY OF CERAMICS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO USE THE NEW ARTIFACTS FOR THE FLOORING OF HOMES, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOOD AND FOR THE CREATION OF OBJECTS. THE CULTURE OF CERAMICS FROM THE NEAR EAST ALSO SPREAD TO ITALY IN THE SIXTH MILLENNIUM A.C. WITH STRONG EXPANSION IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY AND THEN CONTINUED TO THE SOUTH OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, WHERE THE PRODUCTION OF AZULEJO IS STILL KNOWN TODAY. THE MAJOR PRODUCTION CENTERS IN SICILY TODAY INCLUDE THE SICILIAN CERAMICS SANTO STEFANO DI CAMASTRA (ME), CALTAGIRONE (CT) AND SCIACCA, IN THE HISTORY OF SICILIAN CERAMICS BETWEEN 1600 AND 1700 CALTAGIRONE HAD A CONSIDERABLE IMPULSE IN THE PRODUCTION OF CERAMICS, TODAY YOU CAN ALSO FIND CERAMICS CALTAGIRONE FAVORS AND MANY OTHER OFFERS WITH A CATALOG.



From the 1300s on parades and lace have embellished the items of the kit and the linens of the Sicilian girls. Sicilian dates back to the end of the 14th century in eastern Sicily, while Filet was born in France and from there passing through Europe it reaches Sicily. In the 1500s they had a lot of success with the Lords in Italy and in France, but these manufactures were also highly appreciated by the clergy. Both techniques have long since become part of the finest set and furnishings that is handed down from generation to generation. Embroidery spread rapidly throughout Sicily with every kind of workmanship genre, from the precious ones with gold threads, pearls and corals for princely and curial garments, for courtly furnishings, for frontals and banners and other ecclesiastical apparatuses, popular clothing and home furnishings. In the 19th century the White embroidery is ubiquitous in personal and home linens, with a great variety of stitches as well as fantasy of decorative motifs. The aptitude for embroidery has been handed down from generation to generation up to the present day, together with the different techniques of embroidery in white. The first schools of these embroideries arose in Palermo and Ragusa only after the first world war. The organization is typical of home work.



# *MICHELE RAPISARDI*

Michele Rapisardi was born in Catania in 1822 and died in Florence in 1886. He was a painter of romanticism. In 1846 he obtained awards in the competitions held by the Academy of Virtuosi at the Pantheon and by the Academy of Fine Arts of San Luca; the following year he moved to Florence where he reproduced, admired, the works of Raphael, Michelangelo and Beato Angelico and painted historical and contemporary subjects. From 1853 he frequented the Caffé Michelangiolo, the meeting place of the artist who in 1855 would give rise to the Macchiaioli current. In 1855 he was chosen by the Tuscan government commission to participate in the Universal Exposition in Paris with the first Italian storytellers at the Court of Frederick II in Sicily. He reaches his peak between 1858 and 1861 and his main works are "San Benedetto", "La cena in Emmaus" and "Venere".



# ANTONELLO DA MESSINA

Antonello Da Messina was born in 1430 and died in 1479. He was part of the Italian Renaissance. The first commission as an independent master dates back to 1457 but his works were lost. Around 1460 he is credited with the execution of the so-called Salting Madonna, in which the Flemish iconography and style are combined with a greater attention to the volumetric construction of the figures, derived from Piero della Francesca mediated perhaps by the work of Enguerrand Quarron. The most famous works are many including "Annunciata di Palermo", "San Girolamo in the studio", "Annunciazione" etc.

