

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778912203321
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Titolo	Rococo [[electronic resource] /] / Victoria Charles and Klaus H. Carl
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Parkstone International, [2012?]
ISBN	1-283-95224-6 1-78042-803-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (200 p.)
Collana	Art of century collection
Altri autori (Persone)	CarlKlaus H
Disciplina	709
Soggetti	Art, Rococo Sculpture, Rococo Architecture, Rococo
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Contemporary History; Wars; Music; Inventions; Art; Rococo in France; Fashion; Architecture; The Architects; Painting; Antoine Watteau and His Successors; Francois Boucher; Jean-Honore Fragonard; Successors; Sculpture; Goldsmiths; Rococo in Italy; Architecture; Decorative Art; Painting; Sculpture; Rococo in Germany; Architecture; Painting; Sculpture; Austria and the Czech Republic; The 18th Century in England; Architecture; Painting; Sculpture; The 18th Century in Spain; Architecture; Painting; The Transition to the 19th Century; Bibliography; List of Illustrations
Sommario/riassunto	Deriving from the French word rocaille, in reference to the curved forms of shellfish, and the Italian barocco, the French created the term Rococo. Appearing at the beginning of the 18th century, it rapidly spread to the whole of Europe. Extravagant and light, Rococo responded perfectly to the spontaneity of the aristocracy of the time. In many aspects, this art was linked to its predecessor, Baroque, and it is thus also referred to as late Baroque style. While artists such as Tiepolo, Boucher and Reynolds carried the style to its apogee, the movement was often condemned for its superficiality