

## **The reconstruction process**

The project to reconstruct the colossal figure of Constantine started, under the initiative of the Sovrintendenza Capitolina, from an agreement between Fondazione Prada, which financed the operation, Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation, a leading company in the field of digitization of works of art, and the Sovrintendenza itself, on the occasion of the exhibition *Recycling Beauty*, where the Colossus has already been exhibited between 2022 and 2023, to then find its natural location in the Villa Caffarelli Garden, in the area next to that of the Temple of Capitoline Jupiter.

The project was carried out by Factum Foundation from the ten known fragments of the sculpture, starting from this archaeological hypothesis: the Colossus was seated and must have been made as an acrolith, that is, with the bare parts in white marble and the drapery in gilded bronze.

Factum Foundation used photogrammetry to document the fragments of the Colossus preserved in the courtyard of the Palazzo dei Conservatori and the fragment of the chest preserved at Parco Archeologico del Colosseo, which, thanks to an agreement with the Ministry of Culture, will be reunited with the other fragments preserved in the Courtyard. Photogrammetry of the cast of the statue of Emperor Claudius as Jupiter, now in the Ara Pacis, was used as a model for the pose and draping. Numerous details were reconstructed from reading literary and epigraphic sources and comparing with other seated statues from the imperial period.

The digital data was rematerialised as 1:1 3D prints, which were used to make positive casts in reinforced resin. For the facsimile fragments, the surface was coated with a custom gesso mix and painted to resemble the original marble, weathered by the exposure to the elements. The recreated sections were made in polyurethane, coated in several layers of resin mixed with marble powder and mica, to achieve a clean neutral marble-white colour. The cloak and the gilded bronze elements was made in milled polystyrene, coated with acrylic resin mixed with bronze powder, over which a gold foil gilding was applied.

The original Colossus, which was about 13 meters tall, had an internal structure hypothetically made of brick, wood, and metal elements. For the reconstruction, Factum Foundation used an aluminum support structure, which allows for its assembly and disassembly.