



ASSOCIAZIONE AMICI DI
PALAZZO MARTINENGO



BRESCIA – PALAZZO MARTINENGO

From JANUARY 21st to JUNE 11th 2023

EXHIBITION

LOTTO, ROMANINO, MORETTO, CERUTI

The greatest Masters of Art in Brescia and Bergamo

For the first time, 80 masterpieces will be put in direct confrontation across leading painters who were active in both cities between the Renaissance and Baroque periods, giving rise to a cultural derby that will now continue on the main floor of the palace with four in-depth analyses that will examine distinctive topics in the history and identity of both Brescia and Bergamo

**This exhibition is part of the
"Bergamo Brescia the Italian Capital of Culture for 2023"**

Curated by Davide Dotti

The painting champions are all set up and ready to step in!

From January 21st to June 11th 2023, in Brescia, Palazzo Martinengo will host the masterpieces of the most important masters of art who were active between the 16th and 18th centuries in Brescia and Bergamo. This is the first exhibition that will arouse a dialogue between the culture and the artistic expressions of both cities during the Venetian domination over nearly four centuries.

This exhibition, which is one of the most eagerly awaited in the program for "Bergamo Brescia Italian Capital of Culture for 2023", is curated by Davide Dotti and arranged by the Associazione Amici di Palazzo Martinengo, under the patronage of the Province of Brescia and the Municipalities of Bergamo and Brescia. It will present a selection of **over eighty masterpieces** from both Italian and foreign public and private collections, bringing to life a true cultural and artistic derby: the artworks of the great masters of Brescia of the Renaissance period include **Foppa, Moretto, Romanino, Savoldo, and Gambara** will be compared to artists from Bergamo such as **Moroni, Palma il Vecchio, Cariani, Previtali, and Lorenzo Lotto** - who lived and worked for over twelve years in Bergamo - in order to understand in what way the common cultural background of Lombardy, brightened up by the innovations proposed by the Venetian painters (Bellini and Titian

in primis), created expressive languages that were in some cases similar, and in other cases antithetical.

It will then be of extreme interest to approach canvases that were completed during the fifth decade of the 1500s by **Moretto** and **Moroni** who, at that time, were based in Brescia in **Bonvicino's** workshop, from whom he assimilated that intense naturalism that characterizes the poetics of this genius from Brescia.

The same unpublished and exciting comparison between the exponents of the two schools of painting will be shown in the subsequent rooms that are dedicated to the theme of "portraiture" - **Moroni, Ceresa** and **Fra Galgario** on the one side, **Bellotti, Cifroni** and **Giacomo Ceruti** known as **il Pitocchetto** on the other -, "Baroque paintings", "still life" - **Baschenis** and **Bettera** as art champions in Bergamo, city known as Città dei Mille, **Rasio** and **Duranti** in Brescia, city known as the Lioness of Italy, and "genre paintings," where the protagonists are dwarfs and pygmies by **Bocchi** and by his pupil from Bergamo **Albrici, Roncelli's** landscapes and **Botti's** rustic interiors of farmhouses and inns.

Subsequently, the exhibition itinerary will carry on along the main floor of the 16th-century historical palace with a surprising "exhibition within the exhibition", which consists of four in-depth studies on themes characterizing the cultural identity and history of these two cities, where sculptures, drawings, musical instruments, paintings, ancient documents and photographs of the period will be on display.

The figures of the two popes of the 1900s, John XXIII from Bergamo and Paul VI from Brescia, and in particular their relationship with art and artists, from Picasso to Chagall, from Matisse to Dalí to Manzù; gastronomic and musical traditions between the Renaissance and the XX century; and finally, there will be an in-depth focus on the adventures of the grand architect Marcello Piacentini, who was active in the early twentieth century between Bergamo and Brescia, and who transformed the two cities' urban landscape.

2023 will be for Brescia and Bergamo a "unique and unrepeatably year", says the curator, adding: "I have conceived a very special and very diverse exhibition compared to the previous eight that have been curated in Palazzo Martinengo. The exhibition, as a matter of fact, embraces the profound meaning of the 2023 Italian Capital of Culture, and will present a new and exciting comparison between the greatest painters who were active in these two cities during the Venetian domination, thus creating a true artistic and cultural derby that will continue along the noble floor of Palazzo Martinengo in different sections dedicated to architecture, music, gastronomic traditions and to the two great popes of the 1900s and their connection with art and artists. Walking through the chambers of the Palace, visitors will thus embark on an exciting journey full of unpublished works, surprises and curiosities, aimed at highlighting the extraordinary cultural heritage that has stratified over centuries throughout Brescia and Bergamo, as well as stimulating a new awareness about a fundamental chapter of the history of Italian art, written by the greatest masters of art who were active in both cities, these two have been paired together for the 2023 Italian Capital of Culture" affirms the curator **Davide Dotti**.

This exhibition is the latest by the Associazione Amici di Palazzo Martinengo following on from the public and critics' great success of the previous exhibitions; *Food in Art from the Seventeenth Century to Andy Warhol* (2015), *The Splendor of Venice. Canaletto, Bellotto, Guardi and the Vedutists of the Nineteenth Century* (2016), *From Hayez to Boldini. Souls and Faces in Nineteenth-*

Century Italian Painting (2017), Picasso, De Chirico, Morandi. One Hundred Masterpieces from Private Collections in Brescia (2018), Animals in Art from the Renaissance to Ceruti (2019), Women in Art. From Titian to Boldini (2020-2022), which were visited by over 300,000 people.

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The greatest Masters of Art in Brescia and Bergamo

Brescia, Palazzo Martinengo (via dei Musei 30)

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