

FONDAZIONE PISTOIA MUSEI

A NEW MUSEUM NETWORK PROMOTED BY THE FONDAZIONE CARIPT

PALAZZO DE' ROSSI · ANTICO PALAZZO DEI VESCOVI · SAN SALVATORE · PALAZZO BUONTALENTI

Pistoia, December 14, 2018 – Four different locations in the heart of historic Pistoia constitute the new museum network of the **Fondazione Pistoia Musei**, promoted by the **Fondazione Caript** and operated by the instrumental company **Pistoia Eventi Culturali**. Its mission is to narrate the story of Pistoia from its origins through to its contribution to 20th-century visual culture, with a wide-ranging exhibition programme privileging modern and contemporary art.

This important project – which follows the beneficial effects of Pistoia's nomination in 2017 as *Italian Capital of Culture* – has **the objective of offering the city's residents and visitors a calendar of diverse and attractive cultural and artistic initiatives**, in order that Pistoia increasingly affirm its role as a favoured destination for tourism and at the same time enhance and promote the city's historic and artistic patrimony.

The will to create a museum system has been precipitated by the acquisition of the Antico Palazzo dei Vescovi, a transaction which the Fondazione Caript is currently concluding with Intesa Sanpaolo, and which foresees the Fondazione assuming the management, on deposit, of its art collections. The museum, operated by a series of accords between public and private bodies, is a special and unique monument, custodian of several distinct museum collections, including archaeology, the museum of the Cathedral of San Zeno, the magnificent 'Millefiori' tapestry, the Bigongiari collection of Florentine painting of the 17th century, and mural paintings by Giovanni Boldini.

Nearby, almost facing the Piazza del Duomo, is the exhibition venue of **San Salvatore**, a former church, dating back to at least 979 CE, whose decline and dereliction has only recently been halted by a restoration project financed by the Fondazione Caript. San Salvatore, which is to be inaugurated next Spring, will be a small, refined museum telling the story of the ancient heart of Pistoia through diverse media, interactive digital technology, and the presentation of new discoveries, the most extraordinary of which is a fresco fragment, ***The Lamentation of the Dead Christ***, datable to the end of the 13th century and attributed to the circle of Lippo di Benivieni.

Across the Piazza, not far from the church of Sant'Andrea with Giovanni Pisano's celebrated pulpit and from Palazzo Fabroni, Museo del Novecento e del Contemporaneo, is **Palazzo de' Rossi**, an 18th-century palace and seat of the Fondazione Caript. This is home to a collection of works of art initiated in 1992 with the acquisition of drawings and paintings by painter and sculptor Corrado Zanzotto (Pieve di Soligo, 1903 – Pistoia, 1980). Over the years the collection has grown, becoming representative of evolution and change in art in Pistoia over the centuries. With the birth of the Fondazione Pistoia Musei, Palazzo de' Rossi **becomes a figurehead of the new museum network, dedicated specifically to 20th century art in Pistoia, with renovated permanent exhibition galleries enriched by works on deposit from the collection of the Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Lucchesia**.

Opposite, **Palazzo Buontalenti**, an interesting example of Florentine architecture of the late Cinquecento, has hosted occasional temporary exhibitions organized by the Fondazione Caript since 2013. From 2019 this will become an exhibition venue with a full and broad programme,



especially of modern and contemporary art. It will be inaugurated with ***Italia Moderna 1945–1975. From Reconstruction to the Student Riots***, curated by **Marco Meneguzzo**. The exhibition, currently being developed and scheduled for April to November 2019, with approximately **140 works loaned from the collections of Intesa Sanpaolo**, will display the dense fabric of Italian artistic production in one of Italy's most radical periods of transformation.

Following this, from December 2019 to March 2020, comes ***Reflections of Leonardo, Two Centuries of Celebrations, Anniversaries and Curiosities***, curated by **Antonio Natali, Andrea Baldinotti and Tommaso Mozzati**: conceived as a closing event of the celebrations of the 5th centenary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, this exhibition will offer a detailed review of the long and distinguished Leonardo exhibition history between the 19th and 20th centuries, **shedding light on some key moments over the same period in the evolving myth and popular perception of Leonardo**.

"Our organization," commented Luca Iozzelli, President of the Fondazione Caript General Director of the Fondazione Pistoia Musei, "considers culture a beacon and a motor for social progress, and is planning to invest major resources in this new project, increasing its commitment in sectors to which it already contributes importantly in Pistoia, especially music, with its festivals of chamber and symphonic music and jazz, and the anthropology of the contemporary, Pistoia – Dialoghi sull'uomo."

Philip Rylands, Director Emeritus of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, and Direttore Scientifico of the Fondazione Pistoia Musei stated: *"I can only be admiring of the enlightened policy of the Fondazione Caript which has committed, in addition to its well known support of cultural and social programmes, to enhancing and sharing the art of which it is the guardian."*

The logo of the Fondazione Pistoia Musei was designed by Sebastiano Girardi Studio, Venice. Graphics and web and video design are by Cristiano Coppi Studio Design e Comunicazione, Pistoia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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