

BERNARDO BELLOTTO

il Canaletto delle corti europee

Conegliano (TV), Palazzo Sarcinelli - 11 novembre 2011 / 15 aprile 2012

CONEGLIANO (TV) – PALAZZO SARCINELLI
FROM 11 NOVEMBER 2011 TO 15 APRIL 2012
BERNARDO BELLOTTO

The exhibition will present seventy artworks allowing the public to go over the artistic development of the *Canaletto of the European courts*.

After the big success of the exhibition dedicated to Cima da Conegliano, with over 110,000 visitors, **Palazzo Sarcinelli in Conegliano** is ready to host a new project of great historical and artistic importance.

From 11 November 2011 to 15 April 2012 the exhibition rooms of the 16th-century palazzo - in the centre of the Venetian town - will host artworks by **BERNARDO BELLOTTO** (1722-1780) and the major view painters of the 18th century.

Curated by Dario Succi, promoted by the **Municipality of Conegliano** and **Unascom Confcommercio of the Province of Treviso**, produced and organised by **Artematica**, under the patronage of the **Italian Ministry for Culture**, the **Veneto Region** and the **Province of Treviso**, the project is made possible thanks to the fundamental partnership of **PromoTreviso**.

The exhibition - through 70 artworks - will go over the entire artistic life of one of the greatest representatives of Venetian view painting, who was able to take advantage masterly of the discoveries and technical achievements of his uncle Antonio Canal called Canaletto, especially having been trained in his workshop from 1736.

The exhibition features important private and public Italian and foreign institutions granting on loan their masterpieces, namely, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden, the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna, the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, the Accademia Carrara in Bergamo, Palazzo Barberini in Rome, the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice, the Galleria Nazionale in Parma, the Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe of the Pinacoteca Nazionale in Bologna, the Civica Raccolta delle Stampe Achille Bertarelli in Milan.

Bernardo Bellotto's artistic development will be surveyed through the fundamental stages of his career, from the views of Venice and other Italian cities- Florence, Rome, Milan, Turin - to the views of the European capitals, such as Dresden, Vienna, and Warsaw.

The exhibition will start from Bellotto's early paintings dedicated to the city of Venice, in which the typical stylistic qualities of the master can be found. Whereas in the *Rio dei Mendicanti* and

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the Scuola di San Marco, belonging to the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice, the view still shows the influence of Canaletto's models deriving from his training, in other paintings, such as the *Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo*, the artist reveals his style, characterised by an accurate definition of architectural structures, silver brightness, strong shadings, and emerald green water.

His first stay in Dresden, from 1747 to 1758, is remembered through three huge - 135 x 240 cm - and beautiful paintings coming from the well-known Gemäldegalerie in Dresden and representing the city of Pirna, on the river Elbe, a few kilometres far from the capital of Saxony. In these paintings, true and proper bucolic landscapes, Bellotto focuses on the idyllic character of the rural zone crossed by the big river.

The masterpiece from the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna, *The Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna, seen from the East* is representative of the Viennese period. The oil on canvas dated between 1759 and 1760 is an example of how Bellotto - son of the Venetian view painting tradition - overtook the mere documentary representation of the Viennese palazzos and gardens, characterising Austrian painting of the age. Bellotto painted the view in a baroque theatrical perspective, placing in the foreground the figures to be the main characters of the scene - in particular, the prince Josef Wenzel, his consort and another lady - the gardens extending behind them and, in the background, the belvedere and the palazzo.

The Polish period (1767-1780), the last of Bellotto's stylistic evolution, will be analysed deeply. Once he left Dresden with the aim to reach Saint Petersburg, Bellotto stopped in Warsaw where he became court painter for the King Stanislaw August. The king's protection helped him to regain the wealth and professional status partly lost during his second stay in Dresden (1762-1767). The ambitious Polish king had invited many artists from the biggest European centre to join the new born Academy of Fine Arts and form a prestigious collection. Among Stanislaw August's projects there was the building of the Castle of Ujazdow, for which Bellotto painted his first views of Warsaw and a cycle of sixteen Roman views dating 1768-1769, inspired by Giambattista Piranesi's engravings. The idea to match the images of Warsaw and Rome arose at the court, maybe thanks to Bellotto himself, since in those years the Polish capital was characterised by a great moment of splendour. At the end of the 18th century, Warsaw, with over 100,000 inhabitants, was one of the most populated city of Europe: its development had been fostered by a financial class linked to aristocracy and considering the court as the heart of a cultural and scientific life able to increase its status beyond the national borders.

Bellotto's Polish views are featured by genre scenes and their realism and exemplified in some masterpieces to be exhibited in Conegliano, namely the *The Church of the Holy Cross*, and the *Krakowskie Przedmieście Street taken from the Zygmunt III Column*, coming from the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Bellotto painted with special accuracy the details of city architecture and the

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portraits of some characters, giving his artworks a great documentary reliability. In the *Wilanów Palace seen from the Garden* – at Palazzo Sarcinelli as well – the artist portrayed the eighty-year old August Czartoryski, Stanislaw August's uncle, with his wife Maria Zofia, his daughter Izabella Lubomirska and his granddaughter Julia, upon the king's request who wished to pay tribute to his mother Konstancja's family.

Special attention will be given to the section dedicated to the engravings, comparing the paintings and the marvellous etchings of which Bellotto was one of the greatest masters of his age. Full of amusing scenes of popular daily life, the engravings – the greatest part of them of big dimensions – will give us back the 16th-century images of Dresden and Warsaw. In one of them Bellotto portrayed himself, next to King Stanislaw August, while painting a view of the Polish capital.

The exhibition will be completed by a limited, but of an outstanding quality, selection of artworks by the great masters of view painting, such as **Canaletto**, **Carlevarijs**, **Marieschi**, **Francesco Guardi**, **Bernardo Canal**, who contributed, with their stylistic innovations, to spread widely view painting and the image of Venice. This selection will allow the public to understand the cultural and artistic environment where Bellotto's painting and his way of creating pictorial equivalences of reality developed, giving the visitor the opportunity to appreciate the evolution of view painting during the 18th century.

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BERNARDO BELLOTTO

Conegliano, Palazzo Sarcinelli (via XX settembre, 132)

11 November 2011 – 15 April 2012

Information and bookings:

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OPENING HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9.00 - 19.00

Friday - Saturday: 9.00 - 21.00

Sunday: 9.00 - 20.00

The exhibition will close on 24, 25 and 31 December.

On Sunday 1st January 2012 it will open from 13.00 to 21.00

SPECIAL OPENING 9 April (Easter Monday): 9.00 - 21.00

Last tickets: 45 minutes before the exhibition closes

TICKETS

€ 10.00 Full price ticket

€ 8.00 Reduced price ticket: university students under 26 (upon exhibition of a valid student card), people over 60, Italian Touring Club members, FAI members, ARCI members, CTS members, UNPLI members, and residents in the Municipality of Conegliano from Monday to Friday, and other agreed categories.

Special reduced price ticket € 5.00: people under 18.

Free entrance: children under 5, disabled people with attendant, Icom members, guides authorised by the Veneto Region.

Special Family Ticket: € 8.00 for adults (2 adults and at least 1 child under 18)

€ 7.00 Reduced price tickets for groups - only upon reservation - from 15 to 25 people (free entrance for the group leader).

€ 5.00 Reduced price tickets for schools - only upon reservation - from 15 to 25 pupils (two free entrances for the group leaders).

A booking fee of € 1.00 is charged on each booked ticket, except for schools.

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GUIDED TOURS AND GROUPS – only upon booking

Guided tours for groups from 15 to 25 people: **€ 70.00** + individual ticket per person **€ 7.00**.

Non-booked guided tours upon request (subject to staff availability): € 10.00 per person + cost of the ticket.

SCHOOLS – only upon booking

Guided tours for groups from 15 to 25 pupils: **€ 40.00** + ticket for each pupil € 5.00.

2-hour educational laboratory (guided tour + laboratory) for groups from 15 to 25 pupils: **€ 70.00** + ticket for each pupil € 5.00.

Opening hours and reduced price tickets may change – before your visit, please check them on our website www.bellottoconegliano.it or calling our call centre at the following toll-free number 800 775083 (only from Italy) or (+39) 0422.542854 (from abroad)

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