

# PATRONS, COLLECTORS, PHILANTHROPISTS. FROM THE MEDICI TO THE ROTHSCHILDS

Gallerie d'Italia – Milan, Intesa Sanpaolo's Museum

18 December 2022 - 26 March 2023

Curated by **Fernando Mazzocca** and **Sebastian Schütze**; general coordination: **Gianfranco Brunelli**

IMAGES AT THE LINK:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/f8l5q6ejznwva9odzj9/h?dl=0&rlkey=iuzbzyqya86bzwfykrfu8k641>

Milan, 17 November 2022 – The exhibition ***“Patrons, collectors, philanthropists. From the Medici to the Rothschilds”*** curated by **Fernando Mazzocca** and **Sebastian Schütze** with the general coordination of **Gianfranco Brunelli**, will be open to the public from **18 November 2022 to 26 March 2023** at the **Gallerie d'Italia in Milan**, Intesa Sanpaolo's museum.

The exhibition, staged in partnership with Alte Nationalgalerie - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Bargello Museums and with the collaboration of the Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Metropolitan City of Milan, presents **more than 120 works of various periods** from **prestigious international museums**, such as the National Gallery of London, the Musée du Louvre of Paris, Albertina of Vienna, Staatliche Museen of Berlin and The Morgan Library & Museum of New York. The exhibition features artists such as **Verrocchio, Michelangelo, Bronzino, Caravaggio, Gherardo delle Notti (Gerrit van Honthorst), Valentin de Boulogne, Antoon Van Dyck, Angelika Kauffmann, Francesco Hayez** and an unpublished work by **Giorgio Morandi**.

From Cosimo and Lorenzo de' Medici to the Rothschilds, **many of the major patrons, collectors and philanthropists of all time were leading bankers** who wanted to validate their rise in society by vying with the aristocracy and monarchs in protecting and encouraging artists, including by buying their works. Some of these collections were lost, others were brought together in museums and yet more, which have survived to our own day, remain in the possession of the heirs of those who had created them. For the major bankers,

artistic patronage and collecting were strategic instruments of representation and social affirmation, an eloquent example of the skilful transformation of economic capital into cultural and symbolic capital. Many of these figures have been the subjects of major dedicated studies, but there are other cases awaiting new research.

The exhibition offers the opportunity for original studies and the reconsideration of the centuries of this phenomenon through the analysis of the personalities who have left an indelible mark on the history of collecting and taste, such as **Cosimo and Lorenzo de' Medici, the Giustiniani and Torlonia families, Enrico Mylius** and, in Central Europe, **Moritz von Fries, Joachim Heinrich Wilhelm Wagener, Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild** and, in America, **John Pierpont Morgan**.

Through their portraits, the evidence of their exceptional life stories, often filled with major humanitarian initiatives and, above all, thanks to the exemplary works of art from their collections, it is possible to conjure up the personalities and choices of the collectors.

In bearing witness to the taste and collecting choices of these characters, **the exhibition presents a wide variety of artistic genres**: paintings, sculptures, drawings, engravings, bronzes and precious cameos. Among the most important works, attention is drawn to the *Putto with Dolphin* by Verrocchio, Annibale Carracci's *Crucifixion*, the *Madonna of the Stairs* by Michelangelo, Caravaggio's *Saint Jerome Penitent*, the *Portrait of Count Josef Johann von Fries* by Angelika Kauffman, the *Portrait of Everhard Jabach* by Antoon van Dyck, Francesco Hayez's *The flight of Bianca Cappello from Venice* and the unpublished work *Still Life* by Giorgio Morandi.

The exhibition tour unfolds in eleven sections, each one dedicated to a banker. The final section records the brilliant **"humanist" banker Raffaele Mattioli**, a prominent figure in the economic and cultural renaissance of Italy in the difficult post-war period. A great admirer of Giacomo Manzù, Giorgio Morandi and Renato Guttuso, his prestigious acquisitions for the Banca Commercial and his commitment to major publishing were an extraordinary example, to which the "Progetto Cultura", Intesa Sanpaolo's multiyear programme of cultural initiatives, has given continuity and confirmation.

The exhibition catalogue was produced by Edizioni Gallerie d'Italia | Skira.

The Milan exhibition site, along with those of Turin, Naples and Vicenza, is part of Intesa Sanpaolo's Gallerie d'Italia museum project, led by Michele Coppola, the Bank's Executive Director of Art, Culture and Historic Heritage.

**PRESS INFORMATION**

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**USEFUL INFORMATION**

The exhibition ***“Patrons, collectors, philanthropists. From the Medici to the Rothschilds”***

18 November 2022 to 26 March 2023

Gallerie d'Italia – Milan  
Piazza della Scala 6, Milan

**OPENING TIMES:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: open from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.;  
Thursdays: open from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.; Mondays: closed; last entry an hour before closure

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** full €10, reduced €8, free entry for affiliates, schools, those under 18 years old, special reduced charge of €5 for those under 26 and clients of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group

**INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS:** <http://www.gallerieditalia.com>, [milano@gallerieditalia.com](mailto:milano@gallerieditalia.com), Freephone number [800.167619](tel:800.167619)

News: [group.intesasanpaolo.com/it/sala-stampa/news](http://group.intesasanpaolo.com/it/sala-stampa/news)

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