

PRESS RELEASE

PIGAFETTA AND THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD. SUCH A VOYAGE WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN

Gallerie d'Italia – Vicenza, Museum of Intesa Sanpaolo

From 6 September 2022 to 8 January 2023

Exhibition curated by Valeria Cafà and Andrea Canova

IMAGES AT THE LINK:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2qgdo617w7o78csed6ywc/h?dl=0&rlkey=jr3qe80rrpeessddlteg59ggw>

Vicenza, August 2022 – The exhibition ***Pigafetta and the first circumnavigation of the world. 'Such a voyage will not happen again'***, curated by Valeria Cafà and Andrea Canova will be open to the public **from 6 September 2022 to 8 January 2022** at the **Gallerie d'Italia – Vicenza**, Intesa Sanpaolo's museum.

The initiative, with the backing of the Municipality of Vicenza, Milan's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and the National Committee dedicated to Pigafetta, is being staged **on the occasion of the celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the globe (1519-1522) led by Ferdinand Magellan** and concluded – after Magellan's death – by Juan Sebastián Elcano, in which the Vicentine navigator and writer Antonio Pigafetta took part. The National Committee was formed to commemorate the latter and for the celebrations marking "500 years ago, the first voyage around the world: Antonio Pigafetta, Vicentine, the chronicler of Magellan's expedition", with the approval of the Ministry of Culture, which brings together scholars and institutions to proclaim the achievements of Pigafetta and investigate the legacy of the enterprise in which he played a prominent role.

The opening of the exhibition, scheduled for 6 September 2022, will celebrate the concluding stage of the expedition and the return of the ship Victory to Spain on 6 September 1522, marking the most important moment of the celebrations that the city of Vicenza has dedicated since 2019 to the voyage of Magellan-Pigafetta.

The exhibition, the idea of the Pigafetta 500 Cultural Association, will feature the manuscript of the Account of the first voyage around the world, preserved in Milan's Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, regarded as the oldest testimony of the original version drawn up by Antonio Pigafetta, which has become a work of reference in modern times.

Along with the precious document, and examples of 15th and 16th cartography and antique printed books, the exhibition will display the priceless nautical chart of the Indies and the Moluccas of Nuño Garcia de Torenó (1522), from the Royal Museums of Turin, together with selected works from the collections of the Bertoliana public library and the Diocesan Museum of Vicenza, and from Venice and Reggio Emilia.

On display will be special objects, such as a cloak made of guanaco hide, an animal described by Pigafetta, then unknown to Europeans, and priceless cartographic materials that make it possible to reconstruct the knowledge of the first world, during and after the voyage, prompting reflections on the extraordinary wealth of information that Pigafetta's Account passed on to humanity.

As part of the exhibition, meetings and events will be staged along with a widespread free teaching activity aimed at schools and families in order to promote deeper knowledge of the figure of Antonio Pigafetta. Special teaching aids will be available to make the exhibition tour accessible to people with visual impairment.

On 6 September 2022, on the occasion of the inauguration of the exhibition, the Poste Magistrali of the Order of Malta will activate a special office for issuing a postmark in memory of Pigafetta's membership of the Order and the dedication by him of the *Account* to the Grand Master Fra' Philippe de Villiers de L'Isle-Adam.

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

The exhibition site in Vicenza, together with those in Milan, Naples and Turin, is part of Intesa Sanpaolo's Gallerie d'Italia museum project.