

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

GREAT EXHIBITIONS AT LA VENARIA REALE

Jesus. His Body and Face in Art

Curated by Msgr. Timothy Verdon

Scientific committee: Michele Bacci, Msgr. Giuseppe Ghiberti, Silvia Ghisotti, Andrea Gianni, Andrea Longhi, Lucetta Scaraffia

Scientific Secretariat: Donatella Zanardo

Set-up: Massimo Venegoni

*The exhibition is sponsored and organised by the Consortium for the Cultural Promotion of "La Venaria Reale" under the **High Patronage of the President of the Republic***

under the aegis of: Pontifical Council for Culture, National Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage Office of CEI, Committee for the Exposition of the Shroud

in cooperation with: Turin Archdiocese, National Service of the Italian Episcopal Conference for Cultural Projects, Associazione Sant'Anselmo - Imago Veritatis

On the occasion of the Exposition of the Holy Shroud, to be held in Turin from 10th April to 23rd May 2010, the **Consortium for the Cultural Promotion of La Venaria Reale** has sponsored and organised the international exhibition

"Jesus. His body and face in art", that will open on 1st April to end on 1st August.

The exhibition is curated by Monsignor Timothy Verdon, Art History Professor at Stanford University in Florence, Canon of Florence Cathedral, one of the leading experts on sacred art. He is assisted by a scientific committee consisting of Lucetta Scaraffia (La Sapienza University, Rome), Michele Bacci (University of Siena), Andrea Longhi (Turin Polytechnic), Andrea Gianni (Associazione Sant'Anselmo, Milan), and by Monsignor Giuseppe Ghiberti, Vice President of the Committee for the Exposition of the Shroud, on behalf of

LE GRANDI MOSTRE DELLA VENARIA REALE

Alto Patronato della Presidenza della Repubblica

Gesù

IL CORPO, IL VOLTO NELL'ARTE

con opere di
Giovanni Bellini
Annibale Carracci
Ludovico Carracci
Cerano
Correggio
Luca della Robbia
Donatello
Giambologna
Giorgione
Guercino
Filippino Lippi
Lorenzo Lotto
Andrea Mantegna
Hans Memling
Michelangelo
Antonio del Pollaiuolo
Peter Paul Rubens
Tintoretto
Rogier van der Weyden
Paolo Veronese
e altri maestri

SCUDERIE JUVARRIANE DELLA REGGIA

**1 aprile
1 agosto 2010**

Parcheggio e Ingresso Juvarra (tangenziale nord di Torino-uscita Sovenera)

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La Venaria Reale

the Turin Archdiocese, and Silvia Ghisotti, Head of the Assets Conservation Office on behalf of the Consortium for the Cultural Promotion of La Venaria Reale. The event is supported by the Turin Archbishop, H.E. Cardinal Severino Poletto, and the Vatican's Secretary of State, H.E. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. The exhibition is supported by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage, through the Soprintendenza per i Beni Storico-artistici ed etnoantropologici del Piemonte.

Lenders include ecclesiastical institutions as well as leading Italian and foreign museums, including the Vatican Museums, the Pinacoteca di Brera, the Galleria Estense in Modena, the Uffizi, Palazzo Pitti, Museo dell'Opera del Duomo and Museo del Bargello in Florence, the Pinacoteca Capitolina in Rome, the Musei Regionali in Messina and Trapani, the Galleria Sabauda, the Museo Civico d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Madama, the Pinacoteca Albertina and Museo dell'Antichità in Turin.

“The display includes paintings and sculptures from the early Christian Age to Baroque. The exhibition celebrates the religious event of the Exposition of the Shroud from a cultural perspective. While in Turin pilgrims will kneel and pray before the cloth that is traditionally believed to have wrapped the body of Jesus and preserved its outline, at Venaria Reale the exhibition will illustrate the central role of the body in European culture and will encourage reflection on connections between human body and divine identity, that are implicit in the cult of the Shroud and the Veronica, and on the pathos that Judeo-Christian morality has always associated with the sacrifice of the body to serve others. The works on display will present an itinerary intended to suggest both the breadth of the Christian concept of the “Body of Christ” and its functional relevance in Christian rite. The exhibition itinerary is comprised of seven conceptual areas: I. Body and Person; II. God takes a Body; III. The Man Jesus; IV. A Body given for Love; V. The Resurrected Body; VI. The Mystical Body; VII. The Sacramental Body.

The exhibition is introduced by a brief presentation of the historical-artistic scenario highlighting a number of key passages in the representation of the body in Western art: the Early Christian assimilation of ancient Greco-Roman naturalism; Byzantine spiritualisation of the body; the new emphasis on the human dimension in early Franciscanism and the rediscovery of the classically beautiful body in the “proto-renaissance” of the 13th century” (Timothy Verdon).

The display consists of more than 180 works, including paintings, sculptures, tapestries, detached frescoes, miniatures, furnishings, jewellery and sacred vestments spanning from the early Christian age to baroque. These include a number of genuine masterpieces by Cerano, Correggio, Luca della Robbia, Guercino, Filippino Lippi, Lorenzo Lotto, Andrea Mantegna, Hans Memling, Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese, Rogier van der Weyden, in particular: *Mourning*

the Death of Christ by Giovanni Bellini, *The Trinity with the Dead Christ* by Lodovico Carracci, the imposing silver *Crucifix* by Antonio del Pollaiolo, *The Sacrifice of Isaac* by Donatello, *Christ carrying the Cross* by Giorgione, *The Resurrection of Christ* by Rubens and the wonderful wooden *Crucifix* by Michelangelo from the Church of Santo Spirito in Florence.

The exhibition is hosted in the restored Great Stables of the Palace designed by Juvarra between 1722 and 1729. The exhibition space is extremely vast – 143 m in length, 12 m in width and 15 in height, for a total surface of 1,700 square meters – and particularly suitable to host the Great Exhibitions at the Venaria Reale, as was the case with the international event curated by Frank Goddio *Egypt. Sunken Treasures*. that attracted more than 220,000 visitors from 7th February to 2nd June 2009. The parallel space of the Citroniera (Orangery), even more grandiose in size and originally used as a winter garden to store for citrus trees, is home to the visitor reception services.

The exhibition architecture, curated by Massimo Venegoni, punctuates the passage from one section to the other through an itinerary that is both coherent and fascinatingly varied in the context of the 18th century space, resulting in a harmonious dialogue between historical and contemporary languages.

The plan provides for the entrance to the exhibition through the Citroniera, where the reception services are located, where the visitors will be introduced the themes of the exhibition.

For images of the works on display:

See www.lavenariareale / Press Office / Cartelle stampa / Mostra “Gesù. Il corpo, il volto nell’arte”