

Pompeo Mariani returns to Monza

The most important exhibition dedicated to the famous Monza painter opens today. An educational viewing is planned for secondary school students.

Monza, 14 March 2002 - At last Pompeo Mariani is returning to Monza. This evening, at 6 pm, in the Serrone della Villa Reale, the first exhibition dedicated to the important Monza painter opens ("Pompeo Mariani. The poetry of nature, the fascination of worldly pleasure"). A complete retrospective, the first to offer an extensive artistic and historic profile of over 100 works, most of them previously unseen, from a large number of Italian and foreign private collections. The exhibition will run from 15 March to 12 May 2002.

The undisputed protagonist of Italian realism of the latter half of the nineteenth century, Pompeo Mariani (Monza 1857 - Bordighera 1927) perceives and describes the society of his day with freshness and elegance through his great technical mastery.

The exhibition includes an important innovation. In addition to the traditional viewing for visitors, a new initiative has been proposed especially for school students: an educational viewing, designed to introduce young people to art. Thanks to the contribution and the co-operation of the pharmaceutical company Rottapharm, a series of wooden panels have been placed next to the most important works along the route of the exhibition, each with a reproduction of the work and an appropriate comment by Elisabetta Franchi, of the 'Museiamo' association. The first part of the commentary provides historical and artistic details about the author, and the second part, which is entirely imaginative, has been designed to attract and seize the imagination of the spectator by 'direct discourse', as if the artist were explaining his paintings. There is also an accompanying booklet, primarily directed at students, detailing a number of significant points for in-depth study and reflection, which may also be used after the visit to the exhibition. Special guided tours are planned for students of lower secondary school age. "Young people are our future", says Professor Luigi Rovati, president of Rottapharm. "I think that by encouraging our children and grandchildren to approach the world of art in an intelligent and interesting way, we can achieve real results."

A full presentation of the project will be made next Thursday at the exhibition site to the head teachers of schools in Monza and the surrounding area.