

Pintoricchio in Umbria - Perugia

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Description: Pintoricchio in Umbria Perugia

PINTORICCHIO LIFE AND WORKS

Bernardino di Betto, known also as Pintoricchio, was born between **1456 and 1460 in Perugia** to a modest family of artisans. The early life of the painter seems to have been very unhappy and was further complicated in **1475** when his father, a simple cloth tanner, died of the plague.

Some years before, however, Giapeco Caporali, the extraordinary miniaturist, opened a bottega on the same street as the young Bernardino's family home and it is assumed that the young boy had his first experiences with brushes and colours in the Caporali bottega. These were years of a great artistic fervour in **Perugia**; the city was becoming an eminent centre for artistic activities in central Italy. In the early years, Pintoricchio participated in this artistic revival, sometimes as a spectator, other times as a protagonist; he is recognised to have worked on the majestic tables that recount the stories of **San Bernardino in 1473**, while also working alongside Perugino on the **scaffolding of the Sistina**.

It was not, however, until 1481 that his first authored works are documented, following his enrolment in the guild of Artists and Painters in Porta Sant'Angelo, Perugia. Working in Rome allowed him to meet new and influential figures: between **1482 and 1485 he painted the cappella Bufalini all'Aracoeli**, he intermittently returned to his home town to complete some of his works and to carry out small commissions, some of which were obtained thanks to his nephew, Girolamo di Simone - the extremely young Canon of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo of Perugia. This fact may also explain the excellent relationship that Pintoricchio had with Innocenzo VIII, for whom, between **1487 and 1488**, he worked on the site of his apartments in the Vatican: unfortunately only part of these are still in existence as the rest was destroyed in order to make space for the Pio Clementino Museum.

In **1490** Bernardino was at work in the **Sala dei Mesi in the Palace of Cardinal Domenico Delle Rovere and in the Chapel Santa Maria del Popolo**.

Two years later he came to **Orvieto** for a commission in the Duomo that was completed only in **1496**. In the meantime Alessandro VI Borgia had become Pope and commissioned the Umbrian artist to decorate his **apartments in the Vatican**, a grandiose project that kept Pintoricchio busy in Rome until **1495**.

By the 2nd January of the same year, the **altarpiece of Santa Maria dei Fossi**, perhaps one of his most significant works, was still awaiting completion. The works in Spoleto, Perugia and Orvieto brought money and in **1501** also recognition from the political powers that appointed him to hold the position of **prior of the Arts in Perugia**.

The events in the life of Pintoricchio are closely linked to the political landscape of Perugia, he was a familiar and loyal servant to Cesare Borgia and he was also connected to the Baglioni family, from whom he received the commission to decorate the walls of the Capella Bella in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Spello, where - between the autumn of **1500** and the spring of 1501 - he created paintings of such magnificent beauty and skill that his fame and eminence in artistic circles in Umbria was ensured for many years to come.

Many consider his crowning achievement to be the stunning cycle of frescoes that illustrated the life of Enea Silvio Piccolomini, Pope Pio II, located in the Piccolomini library in Siena. Ambrogio Barocci designed the grandiose architectural structure and the draughts for the illustrated scenes were prepared by a young Raffaello; these details only serve to underline the greatness achieved by the Perugian painter.

In **1506** the frescoes were completed and Pintoricchio received the commission to paint the pala di Sant'Andrea in Spello, which he eventually left to Eusebio da San Giorgio to complete.

Between **1509 and 1510** he painted his last Roman work, the vaulted ceilings on the Capella Delle Rovere in Santa Maria del Popolo.

In **1513** he retired, due to ill health, to the Sienan countryside, where he died on the 11th December. He was rich but alone, following abandonment by his wife. It was a sad and lonely end for an artist that was initially considered, "deaf, small and unprepossessing," yet nonetheless, had managed to attain greatness.

THE EXHIBITION

The Pintoricchio exhibition is part of a grand project to maximise appreciation of the rich cultural and artistic heritage in Umbria; this event has been planned to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the birth of Pintoricchio - one of the most fascinating protagonists of the Italian Renaissance and a symbol of the city of Perugia. Following the success of the Perugino exhibition in 2004, this new exhibition represents a continuation of the initiative to promote the works of the great Umbrian artists and to draw attention - both of the public and national and international critics - to the stunning artistic and cultural heritage of the region and its extraordinary diffusion across the territory.

The exhibition will be held in Perugia at the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria, which has recently completed work to recuperate and enlarge its exhibition spaces. There will also be a second section in Spello, in the Collegiata di Santa Maria Maggiore. The Capella Baglioni, better known as the Capella Bella, is the location of one of Pintoricchio's most impressive masterpieces.

The opening of the exhibition will also see the inauguration of a specially designed illumination system to optimise the vision of this prestigious cycle of frescoes. In addition to this, a temporary educational display has been installed to provide visitors with detailed information about the historical, artistic and iconographic aspects of the paintings and their location. In the nearby Pinacoteca Civica, there will be a small exhibition on "Pintoricchio e le arti minori". This ambitious artistic event will be further enriched by regional routes and itineraries that will lead visitors on a voyage of discovery across the territory, where they will be able to admire numerous works by Pintoricchio and other extraordinary pieces from the Renaissance period, in their original surroundings. The event has been made possible thanks to the joint commitment of the Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali, the Direzione Regionale per i Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici dell'Umbria and the Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici, per il Paesaggio, per il Patrimonio Storico Artistico ed Etnoantropologico, della Regione Umbria, the Provincia di Perugia, the Comune di Perugia, the Comune di Spello, the Diocesi di Foligno, the Camera di Commercio and the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia.

Vittoria Garibaldi

Exhibition committee

The exhibition committee is chaired by Vittoria Garibaldi and is made up of:

Cristina Acidini Luchinat; Tiziana Biganti; Francesco Buranelli; Keith Christiansen; Nicole Dacos; Lucia Fornari Schianchi; Vittoria Garibaldi; Roberto Guerrini; Tom Henry; Claudia La Malfa; Francesco Federico Mancini; Fabio Marcelli; Paola Mercurelli Salari; Arnold Nesselrath; Antonio Paolucci; Mirko Santanicchia; Pietro Scarpellini; Maria Rita Silvestrelli;

Coordinamento scientifico

Vittoria Garibaldi e Francesco Federico Mancini

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA Perugia

Palazzo Baldeschi al Corso
Corso Vannucci, 66

As part of an initiative of the **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia**, during the period of the inauguration of the exhibition, in **Palazzo Baldeschi al Corso** it will be possible to admire a **Madonna col Bambino** of notable manufacture, recognised as an original work of Pintoricchio. Recently acquired by the Fondazione, the work has undergone a necessary and detailed restoration in order to allow the public to appreciate the painting in all its glory.

INFO --> Tel. 0755725981

WEB e MAIL www.fondazionecprg.it - fondazione.pg@infinito.it

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA
Perugia, San Martino in Colle,

Church of the Madonna del Feltro
Strada Marscianese, località San Martino in Colle

In San Martino in Colle, Perugia, can be found a fresco decorating a wall in the small church of the Madonna del Feltro. The fresco depicts the Madonna who adorns il Bambino, legends incorporate

San Marcellino in Colle, Perugia, can be found a fresco decorating a wall in the small church of the Madonna dei Pentri. The fresco depicts the Madonna che allura il Bambino reggibile incoronata da Angeli, inserted into a landscape. The painting can be traced back to the years between 1498 and 1503, when the maestro was staying mainly in Perugia, where he had completed the great work Santa Maria dei Fossi (1496), which can be admired today in the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria. During this period he received numerous commissions, of which some, as in this case, were often considered peripheral. However, they are still of significant importance due to their suggestive qualities and the skill of the painting that they clearly demonstrate.

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA
Spello Church of S. Andrea,
Via Cavour

Pala con la Madonna col Bambino e Santi

On the 16 April 1506 Pintoricchio received the commission to paint a great altarpiece for the main altar of the franciscan church of Spello. The work began rapidly but the following year the Maestro had to leave Umbria to go to Siena where he had received other important commissions. Pintoricchio entrusted the completion of the painting to another Perugian painter, Eusebio da San Giorgio, but he left a written account that he must follow the drawings that Pintoricchio had prepared. Pintoricchio had made a commitment, however, to paint at least the heads of the characters and the form of Christ on the moulded cornice - the parts considered most important. In 1508 Bernardino was again in Spello to paint these parts and on this occasion justified his departure with the letter that he had received from Gentile Baglioni begging him to return to Siena. The letter was painted into the painting in a small table, over which was the script of San Giovannino writing the Ecce Agnus Dei in his cartouche. Some consider this as one of the most poetic episodes of all Pintoricchio's works.

INFO -- > Tel. 0742301497
PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA

Trevi, The San Francesco Museum Complex
Largo don Bosco, 14

Situated half way between Foligno and Spoleto, this city of Roman origin contains notable monuments from both the Roman era and the Renaissance. Next to the church of San Francesco that in 1997 was incorporated into the convent complex that dates back to the XIII century, is the San Francesco Art Collection. Amongst the numerous mediaeval and Renaissance works in the collection, is the Madonna con Bambino benedicente by Pintoricchio. The tavola, long considered unfinished and not an authored piece, has today been re-evaluated and is now accepted as a prototype of the examples in the National Gallery of London and despite some variations, similar to works in the Bufalini collection in Città di Castello.

INFO -- > Tel. 0742-381628

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA

Spoleto, Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta
Piazza Duomo

The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, built circa 1175 on the site of the church previously destroyed in 1155, was consecrated by Pope Innocenzo III in 1198 and completed between 1216 and 1227. Within the church is an extraordinary series of masterpieces, such as the frescoes painted on the apse by Filippo Lippi. In 1497 the Bishop Constanino Erolì commissioned Pintoricchio to decorate the Cappella di San Leonardo. In the small basin of the apse, outlined by an elaborate cornice designed and sculpted by Ambrogio Barocci. Pintoricchio painted the Eterno benedicente tra cherubini ed angeli above and the Madonna col Figlio tra i santi Giovanni Battista e Leonardo below; on the front of the simple altar is the fresco Cristo in Pietà. Of the complex series of decorations only one of the four Sibille remains, in addition to the monochrome illustration of the Trionfo di Costantino. In spite of the damage caused by humidity that has partially compromised the vision of the works, the Erolì frescoes continue to provide a fascinating testimony to the fortunes of Pintoricchio and his links with the Pontificate.

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA

Orvieto, Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta
Piazza Duomo

The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta is one of the most majestic creations of Italian architecture, with its splendid façade and the works contained within. These works include the stunning painted cycle of the Capella di San Brizio, decorated by Luca Signorelli that followed the prestigious creation of Beato Angelico, the Capella del Corporale e della Tribuna. Within the Tribuna is the work of Bernardino di Betto – Pintoricchio, who was commissioned to paint four figures in 1492: two Evangelists and two doctors of the Church, to be painted on the right hand wall. He was also requested to retouch the XIV century frescoes that had deteriorated due to humidity. Following an important assignment in Rome appointed by Pope Alessandro VI, the artist left the Church in Orvieto before completing the work and returned only in 1496. In the final months of that year, the commissioned paintings were finished. Nowadays, only two of the four figures remain: San Marco Evangelista, portrayed with great and natural finesse on the throne with angels and cherubs and San Gregorio, portrayed in a more schematic style, perhaps due to the intervention of the artist's collaborators, sitting within a study that opens onto a soft landscape.

INFO -- > Tel. 0763343592 - WEB www.opsm.it

PINTORICCHIO IN UMBRIA

Città di Castello, Museum of the Duomo
Piazza Gabriotti 3/a

The ancient Roman Tiferno was the main town and the most populated settlement in the high valley of the Tevere. During the medieval era it was a free council, powerful enough to extend its dominion over the territory beyond the Apennines. The Madonna col Bambino e San Giovannino is housed in the Museum of the Duomo, adjacent to the Cathedral. This painting is a reworking of an early work and only partially authored by Pintoricchio. Attribution of this work was extremely difficult due to its state of conservation; it had been compromised by a drastic cleaning intervention many years ago. According to a common oral tradition, the painting was located in Città di Castello because it was to decorate the bedroom of Grania, the widow of the painter, who lived here before her death.

INFO -- > Tel. 0758554705 WEB: www.museoduomocdc.it

OPENING HOURS AND PRICE

Information and Bookings

199 199 111 servizi@civita.it Civita Servizi

199.151.123 infoline@sistemamuseo.it Sistema Museo

Perugia Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria at Palazzo dei Priori

Corso Vannucci, 19

Daily Opening hours

2nd February -30th March 2008 from 9.30 to 19.00

31st March – 29th June 2008 from 9.30 to 20.00

(The ticket office will close one hour prior to closing time)

Tickets (including bag deposit)

Exhibition at Palazzo dei Priori, Perugia

- Adult € 10,00

- Reductions € 8,00 for under 18s and over 65s , groups (minimum 15 people), University student cardholders, Perugia City Museum Card Holders

- School reductions € 4,00

- Free children under 6 years old, two accompanying teachers, wheelchair users, press- card holders

Combined € 12,00 (Exhibition + Galleria Nazionale dell' Umbria)

- Cumulative € 12,00 (exhibition in Perugia + Cappella Baglioni and the Pinacoteca Civica in Spello)

- Pintoricchio Card € 17,00 (Exhibition in Perugia +Cappella Baglioni and the Pinacoteca Civica in Spello + Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria and other sites and privileges of the Perugia City Museum).

Bookings € 1,50 per person € 0,50 per student

Audioguide € 5,00

Guided visits (for groups, maximum 25 persons)

Schools

- Guided visits (1h) € 60,00

- Interactive visit (1h 1/2) € 75,00

- Themed visit + National Gallery of Umbria (2h) € 90,00

Groups (radio guide included)

- Guided visit (1h) € 100,00

- Guided visit of the exhibition + The Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria (2h) € 165,00

Foreign language (radio guide included)

- Guided visit (1h) € 125,00

- Guided visit of the exhibition + The Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria (2h) € 210,00

Radioguide € 30,00 *The use of the radio guide (microphone system for the guide and earpieces for the Visitors) is obligatory also for groups with their own guides.*

Cappella Baglioni in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Pinacoteca Civica in Spello and the Pinacoteca

Piazza Giacomo Matteotti

Opening hours

Cappella Baglioni *Access is permitted with respect to the religious functions of the building for a maximum of 25 people every 15 minutes.*

- **2nd February – 30th March** from Monday to Saturday from 9.30 to 19.00

Sundays and the 24th March 12.30 to 19.00

- **31st March – 29th June** from Monday to Saturday 9.30 to 20.00 **Sundays** from 12.30 to 20.00

Closed 25th March (Corpus Domini)

The Pinacoteca Civica, every day from 10.30 to 18.30

Tickets (including bag deposit)

- Adult **€ 5,00**

- Reductions **€ 4,00** *under 18s and over 65s, groups (minimum 15 people), University students with ID, Perugia City Museum card Holders,*

- School reductions **€ 2,00**

- *Free children under 6 years old, two accompanying teachers, wheelchair users, and card-carrying journalists.*

- Integrated **€ 12,00** *(Exhibition in Perugia + Cappella Baglioni and Pinacoteca Civica in Spello)*

- Pintoricchio Card **€ 17,00** *(Exhibition in Perugia + Cappella Baglioni and the Pinacoteca Civica in Spello + Galleria Nazionale dell' Umbria and other sites on the Perugia City Museum circuit).*

Bookings Euro 1,50 per person Euro 0,50 per student

Audioguide Euro 4,00

Guided Visits *(for groups up to 25 people)*

Schools

- Guided visits to the Exhibition and the Pinacoteca Civica (1h) **€ 60,00**

Groups (radio guide included)

- Guided visit to the Exhibition + the Pinacoteca Civica (1h) **€ 90,00**

Foreign language guides *(radio guide included)*

- Guided visit to the Exhibition + the Pinacoteca Civica (1h) **€ 110,00**

Radioguide € 30,00 *The use of the radio guide (microphone system for the guide and earpieces for the Visitors) is obligatory also for groups with their own guides.*