

ITALIAN PAINTING FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE 18TH CENTURY TREASURES FROM THE ACCADEMIA CARRARA IN BERGAMO

JUNE 27 TO OCTOBER 26, 2008

For this summer's exhibition, in partnership with the *Banque de Dépôts et de Gestion* on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, the Fondation de l'Hermitage is privileged to welcome the Italian art collections of the Accademia Carrara in Bergamo. This prestigious Lombard institution was founded in 1796 by collector, patron and connoisseur Count Giacomo Carrara. The exhibition brings together over 70 paintings from the Renaissance to the 18th century, highlighting artists from the Venetian (Giovanni Bellini, Carpaccio, Titian, Canaletto), Florentine (Botticelli) and Bergamesque (Lotto, Baschenis) schools. Illustrious Renaissance masters such as Pisanello and Raphael also enhance this exceptional presentation.

The Accademia Carrara in Bergamo, Lombardy, is not only a well-known academy of fine arts but also a major museum housing an extensive Pinacoteca of ancient 15th- to 19th-century art. With a wealth of over 1,800 works, this impressive heritage was embellished over the years by several other famous collectors such as the Count Guglielmo Lochis and the great art historian and connoisseur Giovanni Morelli.

Visitors will be enthralled by Giovanni Bellini's thoughtful Madonna and Child and Titian's moving Madonna set in a serene, peaceful landscape. All these masterpieces — from Raphael's famous, delicately graceful *St. Sebastian* to the expressive, colourful scenes by Lorenzo Lotto — reveal the extraordinary wealth of the museum in Bergamo. Other gems to discover at the exhibition include the fine portrait of Lionello d'Este by Pisanello whose courtly art was in line with the Late International Gothic style, or Baschenis's disturbingly modern, almost photographic still lifes of musical instruments. And at the peak of 18th - century Italian landscape painting, Canaletto and Guardi's famous views of Venice, with their crystal-clear atmospheric effects and intense luminosity, provide the sumptuous *finale* of this outstanding event.

Activities : public guided tours, talks, events, Art & Gastronomy evenings, Art & Brunch Sundays, workshops and quiz tours for children.

Opening times : Tuesday - Sunday 10.00 – 18.00, Thursday 10.00 – 21.00, closed on Mondays, except on Jeûne Fédéral Monday (22 September, 2008) : open 10.00 – 18.00.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of



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