

PRESS RELEASE

Intesa Sanpaolo and Fondazione Cariplo: united in art

Gallerie d'Italia – Piazza Scala – Milan opens on 3 November

**From Canova to Boccioni: Fondazione Cariplo and Intesa Sanpaolo's
19th-century art collections will open to the public in two historical
palazzi in the heart of Milan**

Milan, 3 November 2011. 3 November sees the launch of Gallerie d'Italia – Piazza Scala, a museum complex in the heart of Milan created as part of an art partnership between Intesa Sanpaolo and Fondazione Cariplo.

The two banking institutions have joined forces to create the exhibition space, which was designed by Michele De Lucchi. It is based in an exceptionally prestigious architectural complex covering via Morone, via Manzoni and Piazza della Scala.

Two adjacent historical *palazzi* owned by Intesa Sanpaolo host 197 nineteenth-century Italian artworks, with the emphasis on the art of Lombardy. 135 of the pieces have been sourced from Fondazione Cariplo's art collection, with 62 from Intesa Sanpaolo's collection. Eighteenth-century Palazzo Anguissola and adjacent Palazzo Brentani, redesigned in the 19th century, will be joined in Spring 2012 by the Banca Commerciale Italiana's historic premises in Piazza della Scala. The new section of the *gallerie* will become home to a selection of 20th-century works sourced from leading collections.

Curated by Fernando Mazzocca, the 2,900m² exhibition space offers visitors an original tour around the art of 19th-century Milan, undisputed capital of culture and protagonist of Romanticism and industrialisation, contrasting with artistic movements from other Italian regions.

What makes the project particularly innovative is the partnership between Intesa Sanpaolo and Fondazione Cariplo. The two institutions have selected key pieces from their collections to create a wide-ranging museum experience: there will be masterpieces by geniuses such as Canova, Induno, Hayez, Zandomenighi, Signorini, Segantini, Morbelli, Previati, Sartorio and Boccioni, as well as works by lesser-known artists which clearly evoke the atmospheres and spirit of the age.

The masterpieces on show include thirteen plaster bas-reliefs by

Antonio Canova from the collection of Prince Abbondio Rezzonico; *The Two Foscari* by Francesco Hayez; *The Confession* by Giuseppe Molteni; *The Battle of the River Tchernaya* by Gerolamo Induno; *Interior of Milan Cathedral* by Angelo Inganni; *View of the Naviglio from the Bridge of San Marco* by Giuseppe Canella; *The Gathering of Silkworm Cocoons* by Giovanni Segantini; *Portrait of Fattori in his Studio* by Giovanni Boldini; *The Letter* by Telemaco Signorini; *The Singing Lesson* by Federico Zandomenoghi; *Dream and Reality* by Angelo Morbelli; *The Dance of the Hours* by Gaetano Previati; and four key works by Umberto Boccioni.

Much more than just a place for experts or lovers of the nineteenth century, the museum complex is a fascinating exploration of the art history of a fledgling nation, beginning with Canova's neoclassical plaster-casts and concluding with works from Boccioni's pre-Futurist season.

There is a host of surprises in store at the *gallerie*, which will be offering free entry to the public until the museum's completion in 2012. The 23 rooms take visitors on an inspiring journey around bygone Milan, with original views of the Cathedral and the city's now-vanished Navigli (canals), decisive episodes from the Risorgimento – including battles and more private moments – the last of the Five Days of Milan with the decisive battle of Porta Tosa and dismay at the announcement of the King's death in a snowy Piazza della Scala. The exhibition is divided into 13 different themes ranging from Romanticism, dominated by Hayez, to the Naturalism of landscape artists such as Calvi, Poma, Gignous and Gola; from genre paintings by Carcano, Chierici, Induno and Sottocornola to Symbolism and masterpieces by Bazzaro, Morbelli, Sartorio and Previati; and lastly, works by Boccioni which act as a bridge to the new century and the second part of the museum's collections – the 1900s.

Further attractions – and indeed surprises – await visitors in the shape of the buildings and locations chosen for the exhibitions, all of particular historical, architectural and decorative value. Palazzo Anguissola marks a turning point in architecture between the 18th and 19th centuries, while adjacent Palazzo Brentani exudes all the atmosphere of an aristocratic 19th-century abode.

An original solution has been chosen for the octagonal courtyard, where large windows provide glimpses of an impressive sculpture by Arnaldo Pomodoro, still in its historic central location, as well as the welcoming bookshop and elegant, functional coffee bar.

The *gallerie* will be offering a range of activities, including educational

visits and guided tours. They will be open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 9.30am to 7.30pm (10.30pm on Thursdays). On the day of the inauguration (3 November) they will be open from 8.30pm to 1am (for information, call freephone 800.167.619 – Italy only).

The launch of the *gallerie* in Piazza della Scala in the year marking 150 years since Italian Unification is tangible proof of Intesa Sanpaolo and Fondazione Cariplo's cultural inspiration. The institutions strive to optimise and share their heritage of artworks, architecture and archives, and are fully aware of the importance of cultural growth as a means of developing their local area and the country as a whole.

Gruppo Intesa Sanpaolo continues to expand its Gallerie d'Italia project through this latest exhibition space. The only project of its kind in Italy, Gallerie d'Italia has provided a coherent hub of exhibition spaces in historical *palazzi* in Vicenza and Naples, with plans to open venues in other cities.

Gallerie d'Italia is a fundamental part of Progetto Cultura, a far-reaching series of cultural schemes which Gruppo Intesa Sanpaolo runs on a three-yearly basis. They involve preserving and developing the bank's art collections and historical archives, as well as *Restituzioni*, a programme of restoration work and research. Intesa Sanpaolo has been working on *Restituzioni* for more than twenty years in conjunction with the Italian government's Heritage Services across the entire country. Progetto Cultura will also be offering an extensive range of activities to mark the end of a year of celebrations for the Unification of Italy.

The new museum completes an optimisation programme for Fondazione Cariplo's art collection, with the prestigious location in Piazza della Scala housing a core selection of 19th-century works as well as thirteen bas-reliefs by Canova. This vast artistic heritage includes 767 paintings, 116 sculptures and 51 *objets d'art* and items of furnishing, with a timescale ranging from the first century to the latter half of the 20th century. Until now these masterpieces were visible via the www.artgate-cariplo.it gateway or while on loan to exhibitions.

It is vital that banking foundations and similar institutions with significant art collections both preserve them and ensure that they are available to a wider public. Having examined a series of proposals, Fondazione Cariplo chose to join forces with Intesa Sanpaolo in its prestigious Gallerie d'Italia – Piazza Scala project.

Press contacts:

INTESA SANPAOLO PRESS OFFICE

Antonella Zivillica, Media Office for Social and Cultural Activities

Tel. +39 06-67125312; stampa@intesasanpaolo.com

FONDAZIONE CARIPLO PRESS OFFICE

Bianca Longoni, Media Relations

Tel. +39 02-6239405; +39 347-4016851; biancalongoni@fondazionecariplo.it

INTESA SANPAOLO PROGETTO CULTURA PRESS OFFICE

Novella Mirri and Maria Bonmassar

Tel. +39 06-32652596; +39 335-6077971; +39 335-490311; ufficiostampa@novellamirri.it