

ANTONACCI LAPICCIRELLA

ROMA

GALLERIA ANTONACCI LAPICCIRELLA FINE ART AT TEFAF MAASTRICHT 2018

Early access: Thursday 8th March 2018, 10 AM - 7 PM

Preview: 9th March 2018, 11 AM - 7 PM

General admission: 10th-18th March 2018, 11 AM - 7 PM

STAND n. 345



PRESS RELEASE

The **Galleria Antonacci Lapicciarella Fine Art** will be showing once again this year at **TEFAF Maastricht 2018** (9 – 18 March), the greatest art, antiques and design fair in the world, in the painting section, unquestionably the fair's most important section, bringing an exceptionally interesting selection of works of art to its stand.

Tireless research, matchless skill and competence, scrupulous documentation, the aspiration to total quality, an international vision and unflagging enthusiasm are the qualities for which Francesca Antonacci and Damiano Lapicciarella are known at the highest level in the art world.

The selection of works they present this year is inspired by their gallery's profound interest in painting from the Neoclassical era to the early 20th century.



Antonacci Lapicciarella Fine Art | Via Margutta 54 - 00187 Roma
Tel +39.06 45433036 | Fax +39.06 45433054
info@al-fineart.com | www.al-fineart.com

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Their passion for Italian painting is borne out in the first instance by a rare and precious oil painting by **Giovanni BOLDINI** depicting a *Female Nude*, dated **1890**, which was shown for the first time in Forlì in 2015 at the most important monographic exhibition ever devoted to this Ferrara-born artist entitled "*Giovanni Boldini and the Spectacle of Modernity*", testifying to the international renown that Boldini achieved in the 19th century in Paris, then the undisputed capital of modern art. The picture is remarkable for its rich, vibrant strength, for its freedom of expression and for the dynamic and impetuous brushwork, the characteristic hallmark with which Boldini succeeded in capturing the seductive sensuality of the female body. The young model reclines with nonchalance on an unmade bed, her hair loose, her eyes closed, emanating a strong erotic charge while maintaining an ineffable, sophisticated elegance.

We would also like to highlight the enormous art historical interest of **three very fine paintings** by **Giulio Aristide Sartorio**. The panels in question constitute an important rediscovery of parts of a large decorative frieze entitled *From the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Most Recent Achievements of Science* which Sartorio made for the Lazio Room at the Esposizione Internazionale del Sempione in Milan in 1906. The frieze, an oil on canvas painted "en grisaille", consisted in a cycle of panels with which Sartorio set out to illustrate "*Italy's driving energy in history, ferrying the classical ideal into the modern world*" and which critics hailed as one of his most successful decorative ventures to date. The frieze was subsequently reworked in 1924 for the Cruise of the Regia Nave Italia, when the artist, who had been appointed Commissioner for the Arts and tasked with disseminating knowledge of Italian art, toured Latin America for eight months.

In the three panels on display, entitled *From the Great Discoveries, Through the Gloomy Ages, to the Living Revival of the Race, From the Myth of Brute Forces Tamed to the Most Recent Achievements of Science* and *The Advent of Art and Culture* respectively, Sartorio gives us a foretaste, in the development of his composition, in his sophisticated, elegant style and in the fluid and dynamic movement of his figures, of what was to be his greatest monumental work ever, the decoration of the parliamentary auditorium at the Palazzo di Montecitorio in Rome a few years later.

A large canvas entitled *Spring* dated 1925 by **Cagnaccio di San Pietro**, one of Italy's greatest Hyperrealist artists, displays the artist's delineated, compact and meticulous brushwork and unique, almost vitreous enamelled palette that were the manifesto of "Magical Realism," an artistic trend which developed in Italy in the 1920s and which had a clear affinity with the Neue Sachlichkeit, or New Objectivity, and the Magischer Realismus of northern Europe. The painting, from a prestigious Italian private collection, has revealed a fascinating and hitherto unknown history: thanks to in-depth research and to an X-ray inspection performed during cleaning, it was discovered that the picture was first shown at Ca' Pesaro in Venice in 1923 under the title *Spring*, while two years later the artist, who, in the meantime, had acquired a greater awareness of the philosophy underlying his work, felt the need in the prevailing climate of "Magical Realism" to eliminate the excessively obvious naturalism from the work, thus de facto turning the painting into the manifesto of this new trend in art. On that occasion



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he signed it and dated it 1925, and showed it from that moment on under the title *The Two Sisters* or *The Letter*.

The Gallery will also be placing a picture entitled *Portrait of Giorgione*, very possibly **Antonio Canova's** most important contribution to the art of painting, **on public display for the very first time**. The artist painted the panel in the style of Giorgione, presenting it to Prince Abbondio Rezzonico, and the two men then decided to show it to dinner guests with that attribution in order to gauge their reaction. As Antonio D'Este tells in his *Memoirs of Antonio Canova* published in 1864: "The prince invited a number of people to dine with him, including Angelica Kauffman, Hamilton, Volpato, Cades, Cavallucci and Burri, a skilled restorer of paintings... and they unanimously judged it to be original, exclaiming 'This is a Giorgione! How well it is painted! How well it is drawn! How splendidly effective its palette!'"

Galleria Antonacci Lapicciarella Fine Art Created by the merger of two historic galleries that have been on the market for several generations, the **Galleria Francesca Antonacci Damiano Lapicciarella Fine Art**, with its prestigious headquarters in a fascinating courtyard in the centre of Rome, is a landmark for enthusiasts of "Grand Tour" paintings as well as drawings and sculptures by European artists from the late eighteenth century and the middle of the nineteenth. It is also a site for true museum-profile exhibitions. The gallery participates in the most prestigious antique shows: TEFAF Maastricht, the Paris Salon du Dessin, the Biennale des Antiquaires in Paris, the International Antiques Biennale of Palazzo Corsini in Florence, Fine Art Paris and the International Exhibition of Palazzo Venezia in Rome.

Rome, January 2018

Photos and Press materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zzevypp4th3nj4y/AACqoWY4dYRrpelVbvcXeSrma?dl=0>

Press Information:

Maria Bonmassar
06 4825370; +39 335490311; ufficiostampa@mariabonmassar.com

Gallery Details:

Galleria Antonacci Lapicciarella Fine Art
www.alfineart.com

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