



Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

Canova & l'Antico

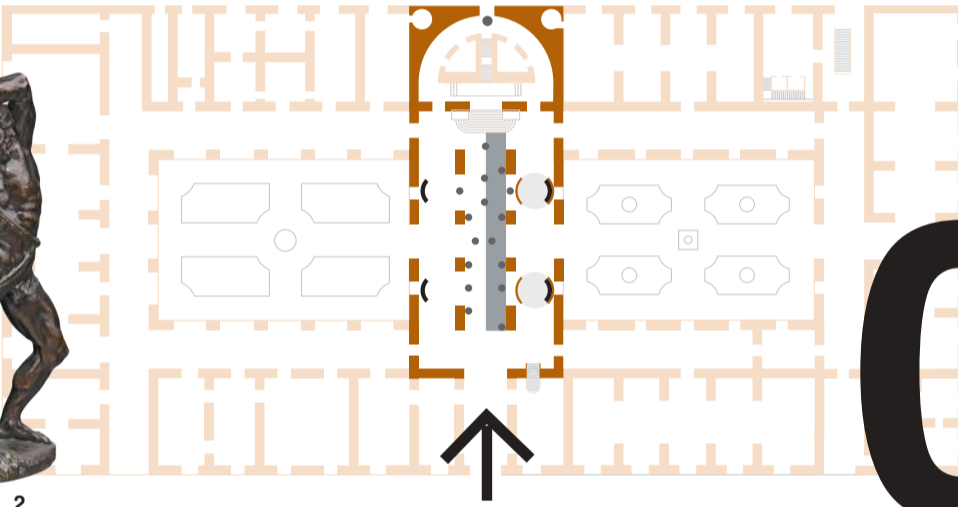
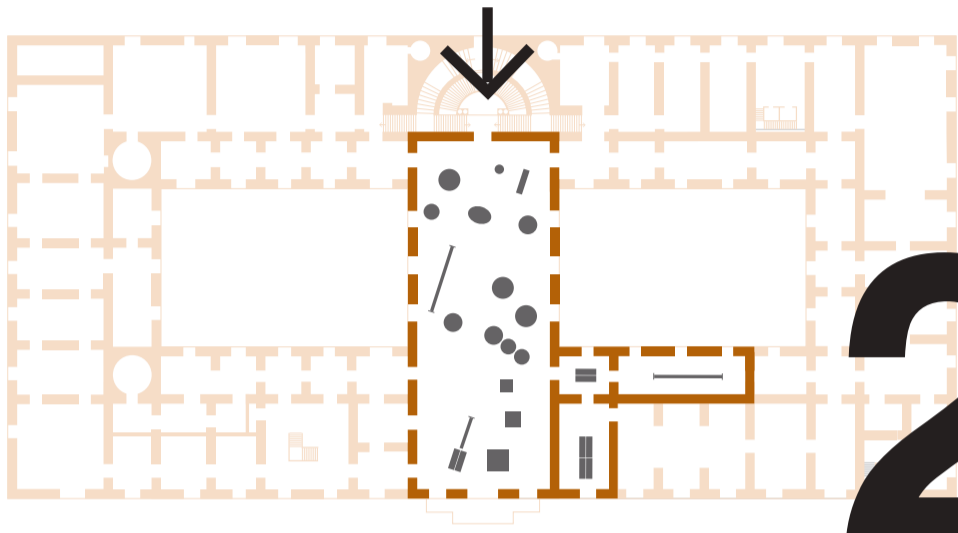
29 March
30 June 2019

English

Antonio Canova's magnificent art has rightly earned him praise as "the last of the ancients and the first of the moderns"

This exhibition focuses on Canova's constant, intense and fruitful relationship with classical antiquity, which made him known as "the new Phidias" among his contemporaries.

Throughout the course of his artistic activity, Canova followed Winckelmann's call "to imitate but not to copy the ancients" in order to "become inimitable". The exhibition is organised on two floors and displays a full range of works by Canova, including drawings, sketches, paintings, plaster casts and marble sculptures.



It showcases some of Canova's greatest masterpieces, such as the famous group of *The Graces* on loan from the Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg.

The National Archaeological Museum of Naples was in a uniquely privileged position to assemble this complex and fascinating dialogue between Canova's works and the great works of antiquity, with stunning pieces that can delight the modern spectator as thoroughly as they did Canova's contemporaries.



1 Creugas - Plaster figure - Possagno, Antonio Canova Museum and Plaster Cast Gallery
2 Hercules and Lichas - Bronze - Saint Petersburg, State Hermitage Museum
3 Cupid and Psyche Standing - Marble - Saint Petersburg, State Hermitage Museum
4 Dance of the Graces and Venus in front of Mars - Possagno Antonio Canova Museum and Plaster Cast Gallery

C+ by Magister:

immersive experience

The two installations dedicated to Antonio Canova in the entrance hall of the Museum are hosted in theatre-like round structures with a six-metre diameter.

The visual journey takes the visitor through virtual imagery and scientific study, going from a single detail to a bird's eye view, from the butterfly of Cupid and Psyche, to Hercules hurling Lichas, the great myths

sculpted in marble and the polychrome paintings on a dark background, dedicated to dance. Adriano Giannini's voice and the original soundtrack by the cello-player Giovanni Sollima contribute to a show which mixes deep emotion to accurate knowledge.

Audio: English and Italian

C+ is a new branch of Magister Canova. Magister Canova is the innovative exhibition format, designed and realized by "Cose Belle d'Italia Entertainment"

Tours for schools

available on request
reservation required
Italian, English, French, Spanish
up to 30 students

€ 90

Tours for groups

available on Sunday
reservation required
Italian, English
up to 30 participants

€ 130,00

Info and reservation

Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and
from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Saturday from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
from a landline: 840800288
from a mobile • from abroad:
+39 06 399 67 050

organized by Coopculture:
www.coopculture.it

5 **Dancer with Hands on Hips** - Marble
- Saint Petersburg, State Hermitage Museum
6 **Winged Cupid** - Marble - Saint Petersburg,
State Hermitage Museum



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Canova in Naples

Museo di
Capodimonte

MANN

Accademia
di Belle Arti

via Toledo

Cappella
di Sansevero

piazza
del Plebiscito

Reggia
di Portici



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Canova comes to Naples in 1780 to admire the beauties of the city and the antiquities of Herculaneum and Paestum. In his second "Quaderno di Viaggio" he writes about Naples: "everywhere is like Heaven". He also reports of his visits to the **Sansevero Chapel** - where he appreciates the "Dead Christ" by Giuseppe Sammartino -, to the **Gallery of Capodimonte** and to the **Museum of Portici**, where all the antiquities from the Vesuvian area had been gathered. Among the bronzes from the Villa of Papyri of Herculaneum he praises the "Seated Mercury" for "its wonderful beauty".

Canova obtains the permission to draw the nude at the **Academy (of Fine Arts)**, placed at the time in the area of San Carlo alle Mortelle. Today, in the Academy's **Gipsoteca**, it is possible to admire some of his plaster models.

The master comes back to Naples in 1787 and carves for Francesco Maria Berio the marble group *Venus and Adonis*, to be placed in a little temple in the garden of the marquis' palace, along **via Toledo**. The work, inscribed in the genre "delicate and gentle", is today in Geneva.

For the Neapolitan Onorato Caetani he sculpts the group *Hercules and Lichas*, classified in the genre "strong" or "fierce", taking inspiration from the ideal model of the *Farnese Hercules* and from the composition of *Hector and Troilus* - both on display at the MANN. The sculpture, later bought by the Roman Giovanni Torlonia, will never arrive in Naples. The *Herm of a Vestal*, commissioned by the count Paolo Marulli d'Ascoli, will also leave Naples for Switzerland first and for the Getty Museum of Los Angeles later.

After the short life of the Parthenopean Republic, the Bourbon king Ferdinand IV asks Canova to sculpt for him a *portrait-statue*. In 1821, as suggested by the master himself, it will be placed in the niche of the monumental staircase of the Royal Bourbon Museum, today **Museo Archeologico Nazionale**.

During the French decade Canova carves the marble busts, today lost, of *Caroline and Joachim Murat*, known through their plaster models. In the same period, the king Joseph Bonaparte and his successor Joachim Murat commission an *Equestrian Monument to Napoleon*, but, with the French domination coming to an end, the work will never be completed. When the Bourbon king of Naples Ferdinand I regains the throne as king of the two Sicilies, he asks Canova to complete the piece with the statue of his father, *Charles III*. The monument can be admired today in **Piazza Plebiscito**.



MINISTERO
PER I BENI E
LE ATTIVITÀ
CULTURALI



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archeologico
nazionale
di Napoli



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
ЭРМИТАЖ
The State Hermitage Museum

with the support of



REGIONE CAMPANIA

under the patronage of



COMUNE DI NAPOLI

GYPSOTHECA E MUSEO
ANTONIO CANOVA



Museo Biblioteca Archivio
Antonio Canova

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general
organization of



VILLAGGIO
GLOBALE
INTERNAZIONALE

catalogue

Electa

opening times 9.00 - 19.30
closed on Tuesday
closed on 1 January, 25 December

tickets
€ 15 general admission
€ 2 for EU citizens from 18 to 24 years old
free for under 18
openMann annual pass

exhibition audioguide
€ 6
1 hour
Italian and English

other tickets
campania > artecard
integrated ticket for museums, archaeological
parks and public transport: campaniartecard.it
campaniartecard.it

piazza Museo 19
www.museoarcheologiconapoli.it

