

THE SFORZA CASTLE OF MILAN

CASTELLO SFORZESCO



Comune di
Milano



THE MUSEUMS



1 Pietà Rondanini-Michelangelo Museum

Since 2015, the space of the former Spanish hospital of the Castello has provided a suggestive setting for the last, poignant masterpiece of Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564). The sculptor worked on it during the final decade of his life, continually modifying the composition. The Pietà, visible from all sides thanks to the new installation, fits harmoniously into the space reserved in the 16th century for soldiers suffering from injury or plague, who could read the verses of the Apostolic Creed on the ceiling vault.

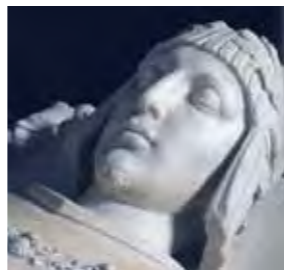
2 Museum of Ancient Art and Arms

The collection features sculptures from excavations, religious buildings, city gates and Milanese residences. These works, which document the style and taste of craftsmen between the 5th and 16th centuries, most of them from Lombardy, are accompanied by important sculptures from Tuscany. The vast collection is completed by tombstones and inscriptions. The installation winds through the rooms of the ducal apartments decorated by Galeazzo Maria Sforza (including the ducal chapel) and Ludovico il Moro, who commissioned the extraordinary



3 Sala delle Asse (or 'Room of the Wooden Boards')

Other rooms document the Spanish domination. Among the masterpieces are the imposing 14th-century monument to Bernabò Visconti by Bonino da Campione, the elegant figures sculpted by the Tuscan Giovanni di Balduccio to adorn the city gates, and the complex funeral monument of Gaston de Foix, created by Bambaia between 1517 and 1522. Along the route there is also the Armory (Sala XIV), which displays European firearms and blade weapons from the end of the 14th to the 19th century.



4 Antique Wooden Furniture and Sculpture Museum

This museum documents six hundred years of furniture history from the 15th to the 20th century, along with a collection of Renaissance wood sculptures. With an installation that recreates the real historical, artistic and residential settings from which they come, the furnishings are brought together in coherent groups and juxtaposed with coeval art objects, prints and paintings in a highly original exhibition solution. Especially interesting is the section dedicated to contemporary furniture, with creations by masters of architecture and design such as Gio Ponti and Ettore Sottsass.



5 Pinacoteca (Picture Gallery)

The installation of Milanese and Lombard paintings from the 15th to the 18th century, left to the city of Milan by noble families and collectors, is enriched by a selection of Venetian works and 17th-century Flemish and Dutch paintings. Alongside significant exemplars of the art of Foppa, Bramantino, Bernardino Luini and other key figures of Lombard painting, the museum also boasts paintings by Andrea Mantegna, Giovanni Bellini, Lorenzo Lotto, Correggio, Tintoretto and Canaletto. Sculptures, terracotta busts and medals are also featured in the installation, designed in 2005, in an artful interweaving of tastes and styles.



6 Museum of Decorative Arts

The Museum boasts a remarkable collection in terms of quality and quantity, making it one of the finest of its kind in Italy and among the most important internationally. Among the cores of the collection are Italian ceramics from the Renaissance to the 20th century, precious late-antique and medieval ivories, medieval goldsmithery and Renaissance bronzes. In the Sala della Balla visitors can admire the complete cycle of the twelve Trivulzio Tapestries, designed by Bramantino in the opening years of the 1500s. Also worthy of note is the collection of Murano and Bohemian glass from the 15th to 18th century. Among the decorative arts of the 20th century are ceramics by Gio Ponti, Arturo Martini and creations by Pietro Melandri. The layout of the Museum, renovated in 2017, enhances not only the artistic but the functional value of the individual works, placing them in their historical and cultural context.



6 Museum of Decorative Arts - Contemporary glass section



Multiform and colorful, the new artistic glass section features 45 works from the 1950s to the present, recently bequeathed to the Castello by the collector Sandro Pezzoli. Among the artists present are Enrico Baj, Mario Bellini, Gianfranco Frattini, Joan Crous, Dale Chihuly and Richard Whiteley.



7 Museum of Musical Instruments

The Castello collection, one of the most important in Italy and Europe, consists of about 900 bowed, plucked, wind and keyboard instruments from Europe and elsewhere. Among the specimens on display, which date from the 16th to the 20th century, are a double virginal by Johannes Ruckers, a viola by Giovanni Grancino and an oboe by Giovanni Maria Anciuti. Of particular interest is the equipment of the RAI Studio di Fonologia Musicale in Milan, founded by Luciano Berio and Bruno Maderna. Between 1955 and 1983 the Studio produced experimental electronic music and soundtracks.



8 Museum of Archaeology – Prehistory and Protohistory section

The artifacts on display, mostly from Lombardy, demonstrate the stages of cultural and technological evolution from the principal cultures of the Neolithic period (6th-4th millennium BC) to Romanization (late 3rd-1st century BC). Chipped and polished stones, ceramics and weaving tools illustrate the innovations of the Neolithic period, while bronze objects such as axes, spearheads and funerary kits introduce the different phases of the Bronze Age. The Iron Age is represented by rich funerary objects of the Golasecca culture, such as the exceptional "First Tomb of a Warrior" of Sesto Calende (late 7th century BC). The installation concludes with artifacts from Celtic culture (4th-1st century BC).





9 Museum of Archaeology – Egyptian section

The collection, one of the most important in Italy, offers an interesting cross-section of the most significant aspects of Egypt's complex society, complete with pharaohs, scribes and craftsmen. In addition to objects of everyday use, visitors can admire anthropomorphic and zoomorphic divinities, amulets, guardian statues (*ushabti*) that accompanied the deceased in the afterlife, sarcophagi, and even mummies. There is a section dedicated to the excavations conducted in the 1930s by papyrologist Achille Vogliano in Fayum, in the ancient village of Tebtynis, and in the sacred area of Medīnet Mâdi, where he discovered an important temple. Among the finds was a statue of Pharaoh Amenemhat III (19th century BC), founder of the temple.

CULTURAL INSTITUTES

10 Achille Bertarelli Civic Print Collection

The original nucleus of the collection of more than 300,000 engravings was donated in 1925 by Achille Bertarelli (1863-1938) to the Municipality of Milan. Expanded over the years, the Bertarelli Collection now boasts more than a million works, including about 15,000 artistic prints from the 15th century to the present. This wealth of material is divided into several thematic sections, noteworthy among which are maps and cityscapes, popular prints, graphics, ex-libris, fashion designs, fans, colored papers and postcards. In addition, there is also a collection of antique books.



11 Civic Photographic Archive



Founded in 1933, the archive of 850,000 phototypes is one of the most important institutes dedicated to the preservation of Italy's photographic heritage. It assembles original material from 1840 to the present day, documenting not only the evolution of photographic techniques, but also historical events, social life, artistic heritage and travel. Among the most important collections are those of Luca Beltrami and Lamberto Vitali, art historian, scholar and collector of Italian photography.



12 Drawing Cabinet

The institute, which has been collecting the drawings that have flowed into the municipal collections since 1862, today preserves about 28,000 graphic works from the 14th to the 20th century. Among the artists represented are Leonardo, Bambaia, Boccioni and Wildt. The collection is made up of studies, figurative drawings from Italian and foreign schools, architectural and ornamental drawings.



13 Art Library

Among the most important Italian libraries specializing in art, it has a patrimony of more than 100,000 volumes dedicated to the figurative arts, museology and museography, architecture, design and fashion. It also has a collection of rare editions, including a significant series of artistic in-folio atlases from the 17th to the 19th century, an antique collection of several thousand editions from the 16th to the 19th century, a special collection of artist's books and papers with originals by Kandinsky and De Chirico, among others. The 1,600 art periodicals and serial collections of the library can be consulted at the Emeroteca, off premises.



14 Archaeological and Numismatic Library

The library was established in 1808 from the merger of the library and archival collections of the Numismatic Cabinet of Brera and the Patrio Museum of Archaeology. It was relocated to the Castello after May 18, 1916. Today it has holdings numbering around 35,000 artifacts, including over a thousand ancient editions. There are also digital collections, with numerous donations, protocols, correspondences and registers.



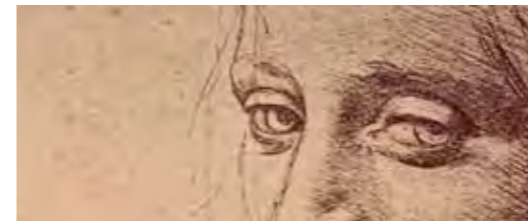
15 Historical Archive and Trivulziana Library

The institute was created in 1935 from the fusion of the Milan Historical Archive and one of the most renowned private libraries in Europe, belonging to the Trivulzio family. The older part of the Archive conserves the acts of the Municipality of Milan and the Duchy (from 1385) while the modern part is dedicated to the acts of the city administration until around 1927, in addition to private archival funds acquired over the years. The Library currently owns more than 1,300 manuscripts, 1,300 incunabula, 16,000 volumes from the 16th century, and over 180,000 printed editions. Notable among them is the extraordinary Codex Trivulzianus by Leonardo da Vinci. Since 1978 the institute has had an annexed laboratory for the restoration of books, documents and bound volumes.



16 Ente Raccolta Vinciana

The 'Raccolta' was founded in 1905 by the architect Luca Beltrami, who saw the need to create a collection of Leonardo da Vinci materials of all kinds. Now the world's leading library dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, it was recognized by the Italian state as a charitable trust in 1955. The institute brings together 5,000 volumes including manuscripts, and ancient and modern collections on the great Tuscan artist published all over the world, as well as 2,000 photographs.



17 CASVA, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts

The Castle hosts the consultable archive of the CASVA, an institute dedicated to architecture, design, graphic design, figurative arts and visual arts. Founded in 1999 and active since 2002, the Center consists of the professional and personal archives of architects, designers and graphic designers, giving priority to those who worked in Milan and Lombardy, especially in the 20th century. The professional archives include those of Baldessari, Sambonet and Gregotti.



Built as a stronghold at the behest of Galeazzo II Visconti between 1360 and 1370, the Castello was transformed into a residence in the 15th century and assumed more sumptuous form under the Sforza, when the Milanese court was attracting artists such as Leonardo and Bramante. The castle was used as a barracks during the foreign dominations of the State of Milan by the Spanish (1535-1706), the Austrians (1706-1796), the French (1796-1814) and again the Austrians (1814-1859). It was only with the unification of Italy at the end of the 19th century that the historic complex was rebuilt, restored and transformed into a museum by Luca Beltrami.

Today the Castello, with its museums and cultural institutes, is one of the most significant monuments in Milan and attracts visitors from all over the world.

Castello hours: Monday-Sunday 7.00 am – 7.30 pm

Ticket desk: Tuesday-Sunday 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10.00 am – 5.30 pm (last admission 5 pm)

Cultural institutes: see individual websites for hours

Public transport: MM1 (Cadorna, Cairoli); MM2 (Cadorna, Lanza); buses: 50, 57, 58, 61, 94; trams: 1, 2, 4, 12, 14;

Trenord/Passante railroad link: Cadorna

BIKEMI: 3-Cadorna 1, 84-Cadorna 2, 94-Cadorna 3, 4-Lanza, 10-Gadio Paleocapa, 263-Castello

Info for people with disabilities: <http://www.milanopertutti.it>

InfoPoint: tel. +39 02 88463700

Website: www.milanocastello.it

Castello Sforzesco Milano

