

CARLO ORSI

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Galleria Carlo Orsi To Show at the 32nd Edition of the Florence International Antique Fair.

The stand hosts a selection of Italian Old Masters alongside an intriguing panel depicting *The Torment of St. Anthony*, a subject to which Michelangelo also turned his hand

Palazzo Corsini (Via del Parione 11, Florence)

Dal 24 September – 2 October 2022

Florence, 20 July 2022 – At the upcoming edition of the **Florence International Antique Fair**, scheduled to run from 24 September to 2 October 2022, the **Galleria Carlo Orsi** will be showing a carefully selected group of masterpieces including an intriguing 16th century panel painting depicting "*The Torment of St. Anthony*" – currently attributed to an anonymous painter of the period – and an extremely rare oil on wood by **Giorgio Gandini Del Grano** – a pupil of Correggio, he was commissioned to complete his master's frescoes in Parma Cathedral after the artist's death – depicting an "*Allegory of the City of Parma Being Presented to the Virgin*". Carlo Orsi will also be proudly presenting one of Piacenza-born painter Gaspare Landi's masterpieces the subject matter of which, "*Stratonice and Antiochus*", is taken from Plutarch's *Parallel Lives*.

The panel depicting "*The Torment of St. Anthony*", with its brilliant palette and astonishing visual impact, shows the hermit St. Anthony the Abbot levitating as he comes under attack from nine fiendishly hybrid demons. A similar version of the subject, attributed to the hand of **Michelangelo Buonarroti**, is currently on display in the **Kimbell Museum** in **Fort Worth** (TX) and, together with the Orsi picture, testifies both to the enormous popularity of Martin Schongauer's engraving of the *Torment* and to the widespread circulation of northern European bestial and dreamlike imagery, a kind of "anti-Renaissance" that developed in the wake of Hieronymus Bosch and ran parallel to the Renaissance of Raphael and Correggio in 16th century Italy. Milan's Palazzo Reale will be hosting an exhibition on the theme curated by Bernard Aikema, Fernando Checa Cremades and Claudio Salsi in November 2022.

Of the utmost rarity is a picture by **Giorgio Gandini Del Grano** painted in 1774 and formerly the property of the great collector Giacomo Melzi, whose paintings are now housed in the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan. The provenance of this complex allegory, associated with the city of Parma's victory over the Franco-Venetian army in 1521, can be traced without a break from the early 17th century when it is recorded in the inventories of Francesco Baiardi, a patron of Parmigianino to whom the panel was formerly attributed.

Gaspare Landi's canvas, on the other hand, is an early example of a theme that was to acquire widespread currency in the Romantic age, *le mal d'amour*, and is one of the loftiest expressions of *exempla virtutis* inspired by the Platonic motif of the happiness spawned by love yet equally watched over by reason. The scene captures the moment in which the physician Erasistratus, summoned by King Seleucus I Nicator of Syria to cure his ailing son, discovers the cause of young *Antiochus*'s ailment, namely his love for his step-mother *Stratonice*, his father's wife.

The Florence International Antique Fair, now in its thirty-second year, proves once again to be one of the most important events devoted to Italian art on the international scene, with a rich cultural programme involving the entire city, including Florence Art Week, and an enormously beneficial economic impact on the area as a whole. Three years after the last edition, the 2022 Fair will once again be **physically present** in the halls of Palazzo Corsini in late September and early October.

"We are tremendously excited to be showing at the 2022 Edition of the BIAF, returning to the 17th century halls of Palazzo Corsini for what is unquestionably one of the year's most important events for art and antique dealers and for old master enthusiasts alike," said **Carlo Orsi**, adding: *"Exhibitions and fairs are a crucial tool in helping those drawing close to the world of old master art for the first time to cultivate a sense of art and beauty. The version of the "Torment of St. Anthony" that we will be showing at the Fair is unquestionably a challenging enigma in terms of its attribution, which is why it will be interesting to hear what the historians and experts have to say".*

Carlo Orsi formally embarked on his career in **1986** when he took over the gallery founded by his father Alessandro in **Milan's prestigious fashion district**. He went on to consolidate his reputation as a dealer with the expertise to handle works of art of the highest quality entrusted exclusively to him by Italy's great collector families. His gallery has hosted works by **Canova, Pontorno, Bronzino, Bernini, Vasari** and **Orazio Gentileschi**, many of which are now in some of the world's

leading museums including the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in **New York**, the **Galleria dell'Accademia** in **Venice**, the **Musée d'Orsay** in **Paris** and the **National Gallery of Canada**.

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