



12 febbraio  
4 giugno 2017

Sansepolcro  
Museo Civico

**Nel segno  
di Roberto Longhi**

# **PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA e CARAVAGGIO**

Press release

**On February 11th, the exhibition spaces of the Sansepolcro Civic Museum will host the opening of the exhibition "Nel segno di Roberto Longhi. Piero della Francesca e Caravaggio". This event is just the beginning of a rich season, which will continue with the exhibition "Luca Pacioli. Tra Piero della Francesca e Leonardo", opening in June. Thus, from February to November a visit to the museum will be an opportunity to admire the link between important works by different masters of Italian art and similar works by Piero della Francesca.**

With the return to Sansepolcro of *Our Lady of Mercy* after the successful exhibition at Palazzo Marino in Milan, the Civic Museum will be again the centre of an important cultural offering, with the exhibition "Nel segno di Roberto Longhi. Piero della Francesca e Caravaggio", that will be opened to the public from **February, 12<sup>th</sup> to June, 4<sup>th</sup>**.

The exhibition presents a new comparison between Caravaggio and Piero della Francesca. At a first glance this comparison might seem risky. But the reasons are easy to understand looking at the two artists, so far and so different from each other, under the spotlight of Roberto Longhi; both were studied and "rediscovered" by the great art historian during his educational years.

Roberto Longhi (1890-1970) was one of the most fascinating characters of the XX century art history. He carried out pivotal studies about Caravaggio, Piero della Francesca and other artists, in an essay he called "Officina Ferrarese".

Longhi was a modern discoverer, a sharp scholar and a collector of Caravaggio. Around 1928 he acquired for his own collection *The boy bitten by a lizard*. The canvas, painted around 1595, is certainly one of the most significant early masterpieces by Caravaggio that, with its beautiful still life details and extraordinary light effects, is able to capture, like a sort of snapshot, the moment when the young boy suddenly retracts after the bite of a green lizard.

In 1927, Longhi wrote a fundamental monograph about Piero della Francesca, preceded by the 1914 sharp essay "*Piero dei Franceschi e lo sviluppo della pittura veneziana*". This essay was crucial for a new interpretation of the painter born in Borgo Santo Sepolcro, who is seen by the art historian not only in the light of his Florence "ancestry", but also, and especially, of his Venetian "progeny", Antonello da Messina and Giovanni Bellini. The exhibition opens with the magnificent *Polyptych of the Misericordia*, recently exhibited with a great success at Palazzo Marino in Milan, and then brought back to its original place in the Sansepolcro Civic Museum.



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Ercole de' Roberti's *Portrait of a young man* and, on its back side, his *Portrait of a young woman* - belonging to a private collection - is exhibited as a testimony of the "progeny, though evolved and mixed with venetian elements" of the young man's "sharp" profile from Piero della Francesca's profiles, as Longhi wrote in the 1934 essay "Officina ferrarese".

Moreover, next to Caravaggio, to Ercole de' Roberti's panel and to Piero della Francesca's polyptych, the exhibition displays documents from the archives, the library and the photographic archives of the Foundation Roberto Longhi for Art History Studies.

The exhibition "Nel segno di Roberto Longhi. Piero e Caravaggio" is curated by Maria Cristina Bandera, Scientific Director of the Foundation Roberto Longhi for Art History Studies. It is supported by the City of Sansepolcro and organized by Civita Mostre.

The exhibition catalogue, published by Marsilio, includes essays by Maria Cristina Bandera and Mina Gregori and an anthology of Roberto Longhi's texts about the exposed works. An effective set up, designed by Corrado Anselmi, enhances the richness of the works exhibited in the museum.

The next exhibition, dedicated to **Luca Pacioli tra Piero della Francesca e Leonardo**, which will be opened to the public from June, 10<sup>th</sup> to November, 5<sup>th</sup>, will celebrate **the 500th anniversary of the death of the great mathematician**. Among other masterpieces, a **drawing by Leonardo da Vinci** - normally hosted in the Castello Sforzesco in Milan - will be exposed, near a painting of his pupil, Giampietrino, granted by the Poldi Pezzoli Museum.

### FACT SHEET

Nel segno di Roberto Longhi. PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA E CARAVAGGIO  
Curated by Maria Cristina Bandera  
February 12th – June 4, 2017

LUCA PACIOLI TRA PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA E LEONARDO  
Curated by Stefano Zuffi June 10th - November 5th, 2017

Sansepolcro Civic Museum, Via Niccolò Aggiunti, 65

### TIMETABLE

February 12th - June 9th: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
June 10th - September 17th: from 10 am.. to 1.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
September 18th - November 5th: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.



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## TICKETS

Full €10,00

Reduced €8,50 for groups of at least 10 people, visitors from 19 to 25 years of age, visitors with special agreements.

Extra reduced €4,00 for visitors from 11 to 18 years of age.

Free for children below 10 years of age, disabled visitors, credited journalists.

## INFO

[www.mostrapieroecaravaggio.it](http://www.mostrapieroecaravaggio.it)

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Civita

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