Venice, Palazzo Cini

Campo San Vio, Dorsoduro 864

20 April – 19 November 2018

**The Palazzo Cini Gallery**

***The new season opens with a remarkable journey into the many ways of imagining and designing architecture as found in drawings from the Antonio Certani Collection of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini***

*Due to open on 20 April 2018, in the year of the Architecture Biennale,* ***Imagined Architecture*** *is an exhibition celebrating the incredible wealth of this remarkable collection through a selection of surprisingly modern, very varied drawings from 16th to the 20th century*

From 20 April to 17 September, the first exhibition at the Palazzo Cini Gallery 2018 season combines the beauty of design with the captivating architecture of illusion: ***Imagined Architecture*** – a show of a hundred drawings highlighting the wealth of the **Fondazione Giorgio Cini’s Antonio Certani Collection**. Consisting of over 5,000 drawings, the collection, acquired by Vittorio Cini in 1962, brings together many genres and numerous artists from the celebrated Bolognese school from the 16th to the 19th century. Thanks to **Assicurazioni Generali**, the Gallery's main partner since it was reopened in 2014, and for many years also a patron of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, the exhibition season will run until 19 November 2018.

Curated by **Luca Massimo Barbero**, Director of the Institute of Art History at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, and by the other scholars at the Institute, the exhibition will take the visitor on a fascinating journey to explore drawings featuring illusionist architecture and ornamentation: *quadratura*, illusionistic apertures (*sfondati*), perspective views, stage sets and examples of objects such as cartouches, ornamental vases and decorative elements that often adorn painted architecture, at times so visionary and intriguing as to almost foreshadow modern design.

"This exhibition marks a new chapter in the process of making the most of the Institute of Art History collections,” comments Barbero. “That process includes studies resulting in important publications on the historic art collection preserved in the Palazzo Cini Gallery and the collection of miniatures. It also involves the digitisation and cataloguing of the documental and photographic collections and the activities of the Glass Study Centre. With *Imagined Architecture* we want to show the general public masterpieces, some never previously exhibited, and fascinating rare works that best represent a very lively period in which architecture as illusion, that is drawn and painted architecture, was at the heart of artistic endeavour.” There will also be a section devoted to those ornate repertoires in which the power of imagination and technical mastery are expressed surprisingly effectively in zoomorphic and anthropomorphic forms and in compendia of details.

Put together by the Emilian cellist and composer **Antonio Certani** (Budrio 1879 - Bologna 1952) in the first half of the 20th century, the Certani Collection of graphic art is one of the largest of its kind held by a private institution and is mainly made up of Bolognese and Emilian drawings. Acquired in 1961 by the bibliophile Tammaro De Marinis, the collection was in danger of being broken up and dispersed. To ensure that all the works were kept together, in 1963 Vittorio Cini acquired the entire collection for the Foundation’s Institute of Art History, thus not only preserving it but making it available for study.

*Imagined Architecture* is a fascinating new exhibition intended for the general public as well as experts. It also provides an opportunity to visit the Palazzo Cini, while exploring a relatively little unknown part of the Foundation’s great collections in the vivacious, charming setting of a house museum.

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