Venice, Palazzo Cini

Campo San Vio, Dorsoduro 864

20 June– 23 November 2020

**The Palazzo Cini reopens to the public**

***After the successful, novel preview in the streets of Venice, the house museum opens to the public from 20 June with* Piranesi Rome Basilico, *an exhibition curated by Luca Massimo Barbero***

*In the third centenary year of Piranesi’s birth, the Fondazione Cini pays homage to the great artist and to the talent of Gabriele Basilico in an exhibition comparing the historic views of Rome in Piranesi's etchings and the contemporary city in Basilico’s photographs, including twelve previously unshown works*

Art is “winning back Venice”, and the Palazzo Cini at San Vio can finally open its doors to the public again. As anticipated over the past few weeks by the original project of eye-catching posters on the city walls (a preview of the exhibition and a tribute to Venice), historic etchings by **Giambattista Piranesi** and contemporary photographs by **Gabriele Basilico** are the highlights of the new season at the Palazzo Cini. On Saturday, 20 June 2020, the house museum will reopen with the exhibition ***Piranesi Rome Basilico***, curated by **Luca Massimo Barbero**, director of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Institute of Art History, in collaboration with the **Archivio Gabriele Basilico**.

To mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Giambattista Piranesi (Venice, 1720 - Rome, 1778), the Fondazione Giorgio Cini is paying tribute to the great Venetian artist with this exhibition on the second floor of the Palazzo Cini Gallery, laid out as a comparison of historic etchings by **Giambattista Piranesi** and the sublime modern photography of **Gabriele Basilico**. Visitors will have the chance to see a **previously unshown selection of the work of the great landscape photographer**, commissioned by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in 2010.

Thanks to **Generali**, the Gallery's main partner since it reopened in 2014, the exhibition season will continue **until 23 November 2020**. A long-standing patron of the Fondazione Cini, Generali has always been committed to protecting and promoting Venice’s cultural heritage, with a special focus on making accessible treasures of great cultural value.

To ensure maximum safety and the best use of the rooms and, especially, to guarantee visitors the customary intimate, personal experience of visiting the house museum (the permanent collections on the first floor include masterpieces by Filippo Lippi, Beato Angelico, Botticelli, Piero di Cosimo and Pontormo), the Palazzo Cini opening hours have been reduced and for a limited number of visitors to every **Friday**, **Saturday** and **Sunday** from **12 to 8 pm**, last admission 7.15 pm (for further information and updates: www.palazzocini.it).

***Piranesi Rome Basilico*** returns to the figure of Piranesi as *vedutista*, explored in *The Arts of Piranesi. Architect, Etcher, Antiquarian, Vedutista, Designer,* a travelling exhibition designed and staged by the Fondazione Cini in 2010. As in the highly original approach in a section of that exhibition, here **Piranesi’s** **views of Rome** are set beside the work of the contemporary landscape photographer **Gabriele Basilico**. Visitors will be able to admire some of the great iconic landmarks of the eternal city in **twenty-five original prints** made in the 18th century by the Venetian engraver, selected from the complete *corpus* preserved in the Fondazione Cini graphic art collections, and in **twenty-six views of Rome** by the Milanese photographer, taken from the same viewpoint as the Piranesi etchings. Inspired by writer Marguerite Yourcenar’s wonderful description of Piranesi in the early 1960s, Basilico took his camera to all the sites of Piranesi's views to capture the artist’s extraordinary modernity. Compared to *The Arts of Piranesi* exhibition in 2010, *Piranesi Rome Basilico* includes **twelve previously unshown photographs**.

The *corpus* of the Piranesi etchings is one of the largest graphic art collections by the Venetian artist held by a private institution. It has been preserved intact thanks to Vittorio Cini’s far-sighted, generous decision in the 1970s to acquire it as a whole for the Institute of Art History, where it is still the subject of study today. *Piranesi Rome Basilico* will not only be an enthralling exhibition for the general public. It will also provide an opportunity to visit the Palazzo Cini and explore a hitherto little-known aspect of the large Fondazione Cini collections in the fascinating, lively setting of the house museum.

Published by **Contrasto** in 2019, the companion book to the exhibition, edited by the Institute of Art History, was conceived as a homage by the Fondazione Cini to the great photographer who died in 2013. It brings together all the photos taken by Basilico for *The Arts of Piranesi* project and includes writings by **Luca Massimo Barbero**, **Mario Bevilacqua**, **Michele De Lucchi**, **Pasquale Gagliardi**, **Alessandro Martoni** and **Roberta Valtorta**, plus a conversation between Gabriele Basilico and film director **Amos Gitai**.

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