

# SEGANTINI

## PETALO DI ROSA (ROSE PETAL) INVESTIGATIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Milan, Gallerie Maspes (45 Via Manzoni)  
September 18–October 17 2015

From September 18 to October 17 2015, the Gallerie Maspes (at 45 Via Manzoni in Milan) will be hosting an exhibition dedicated entirely to one of the central paintings in the development of Giovanni Segantini's oeuvre, his *Petalo di rosa* (Rose petal, 1890).

This dossier exhibition has been planned by Francesco Luigi Maspes and curated by Annie Paule Quinsac, author of the artist's *catalogue raisonné* and curator of the recent anthological at the Palazzo Reale in Milan. The aim of *Investigations and Discoveries* is to document the genesis of *Petalo di rosa*, the painting Segantini reworked over an earlier picture.

A portrait of Segantini's companion Bice Bugatti, *Petalo di rosa* is charged with Symbolist connotations, underscored by the artist in his choice of title for the work, which Vittore Grubicy (the gallery owner and Segantini's patron) tried in vain to get him to change. With its contrast between

the blushing face, the blond hair, and the dazzling white pillow and sheet, and its cancelling out the depiction of grief and anguish in the painting beneath, this work evokes a sensual perception of the woman he loved as she awoke, as if she were a blossoming flower.

The exhibition offers a step-by-step survey of the complex investigation of the canvas by Thierry Radelet, who used the same approach to Pellizza da Volpedo's *Quarto Stato* (*The Fourth Estate*), and an examination of the information gleaned during its restoration by Enrica Boschetti. Non-invasive examinations using x-rays, reflectography, and infrared light have enabled us to rewrite the history of the painting and prove beyond doubt the existence of another picture beneath *Petalo di rosa*. This painting, called *Tisi galoppante* (literally, galloping consumption), made use of various types of gold as elements of the transmission of light, and was thus in the Divisionist mold.

More significant still, Boschetti's investigations shed light on Segantini's specific approach to rethinking his work through the application of different layers of paint. Instead of destroying a piece he was no longer happy with, Segantini preferred paint over it, changing its meaning. No other artist of the time did anything similar. As an accompaniment to the groundbreaking scientific work on the picture, the exhibition also contains a



series of interesting documents (including letters between Segantini and Vittore Grubicy and archival material) that help contextualise the historic period in which the painting was produced.

The event is being promoted in collaboration with the Società per le Belle Arti ed Esposizione Permanente, whose Historical Archives Director, Elisabetta Staudacher, will be using unpublished documents to reconstruct Segantini's early years in Milan as well as his contacts with the Società itself. Her findings will be published in the catalogue.

The catalogue, published in both Italian and English by Gallerie Maspes edizioni, contains an introductory text by Annie Paule Quinsac along with articles and critical essays by Elisabetta Staudacher and Thierry Radelet and an account of Enrica Boschetti's impressive restoration.

During the exhibition, the Palazzo della Permanente will also be hosting a conference entitled *Segantini. Oltre la tela (Segantini. Beyond the canvas)*, with Annie Paule Quinsac as the keynote speaker and where Elisabetta Staudacher, Thierry Radelet, and Enrica Boschetti will illustrate their research.

Once again, Gallerie Maspes are at the forefront of contemporary art, investing time and effort in meticulous study and scrupulous research in the promotion of the Italian nineteenth century's artists and their works, engaging the finest scholars and technical experts, seamlessly blending the Gallerie's private status with public commitment.

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Curated by Annie-Paule Quinsac

### INAUGURATION

Thursday September 17, 2015

### OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday. 10am–1pm; 3pm–7pm.

### ENTRANCE FREE

WEBSITE: [www.galleriemaspes.com](http://www.galleriemaspes.com)

### CATALOGUE (IN BOTH ITALIAN AND ENGLISH)

Gallerie Maspes edizioni (€ 10,00)

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