

THE MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE OF THE SPEDALE DI S. MARIA DEL BUON GESÙ

Construction began on October 20, 1456, with the support of Pope Calixtus III and with the advocacy of S. Giacomo della Marca (St. James of the Marches), who was present for a short period of time in Fabriano while preaching around Europe. The purpose was to put together, in just one place, three different hospitals of Fabriano (“Santa Maria del Mercato”, “i Calzolari” and “la Misericordia”) that together made up the current “Spedale di Santa Maria del Buon Gesù”. The building was set up as a women’s brefotrofio (orphanage for abandoned children) and then as a pedagogical institute since 1983, when it was purchased by the municipality of Fabriano. The Pinacoteca was inaugurated in 1994 with a tribute to Bruno Molajoli, an art historian born in Fabriano and a superintendent of Fine Art. Although the building was built in the Late Renaissance, it is one of the best examples of late gothic civil architecture in the Marche region. The original façade is characterized by a cross-vaulted portico with five pointed arches of different widths resting on cruciform pillars. The inner rooms are arranged around a slightly trapezoidal cloister, where the Florentine Ludovico Antonio built the octagonal well off-center in 1483.



CITTÀ DI FABRIANO



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**PINACOTECA
CIVICA**
BRUNO MOLAJOLI



HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

The Fabriano Civic Art Gallery, called Pinacoteca, was established in 1862, when the municipality acquired an initial nucleus of works, which had previously belonged to the property of ecclesiastical bodies, expropriated following the birth of the unified Italian state. The first exhibition layout took place in some rooms of the antique Palazzo Chiavelli.

In 1912 the collection was relocated to the second floor of the Bishop's Palace when the Cathedral Chapter of San Venanzio decided to bring in a considerable group of art works he owned, including the series of 16th and 17th century Flemish tapestries, which made a new exhibition venue necessary.

In 1990 the Municipal Administration decided to relocate the Pinacoteca to the Spedale di Santa Maria del Buon Gesù (Former Hospital of St. Mary of Good Jesus). On December 16, 1994, the Pinacoteca was inaugurated and named after Fabriano-born art historian Bruno Molajoli.

THE EXHIBITION HALLS AND ART-HISTORICAL SECTIONS

The historical collection of the Pinacoteca Civica Bruno Molajoli, exhibited on the first floor of the building, is spread over seven adjoining rooms and covers a very broad time span from the mid-13th to the mid-18th century.

Visitors can follow two different guidelines. The first one focuses on medieval art, which brings together important evidence of painters and sculptors from the Romano-Byzantine and late Gothic periods to the beginning of the Renaissance.



The second focuses on the art of Renaissance and Mannerism, which is joined by a large group of 17th and 18th century works, most notably is the section dedicated to Flemish tapestries, which have been recently restored.

ESTER'S HOME

The collection gathers works by the major protagonists of the Italian 20th century avant-gardes and was donated to the city of Fabriano and to the Pinacoteca by Ester Merloni, a businesswoman of the well-known family of entrepreneurs from Fabriano and passionate art collector.

The collection shows the original arrangement of the art pieces in the "Ester's home", from the entrance to the fireplace hall.

