

GALLERIA NAZIONALE d'ARTE MODERNA E CONTEMPORANEA

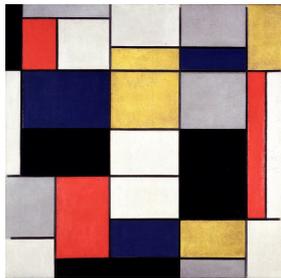


The Palazzo delle Belle Arti was designed by Cesare Bazzani and completed in 1915. The façade features exterior friezes by Luppi, Laurenti and Prini, with four figures of Fame holding bronze wreaths, sculpted by Pantaresi and Candoni. The museum was expanded most recently in 2000 and it displays about 1100 paintings and sculptures of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Among the Italian artists represented are Giacomo Balla, Umberto Boccioni, Alberto Burri, Antonio Canova, Giorgio de Chirico, Lucio Fontana, Amedeo Modigliani, Giacomo Manzù, Vittorio Matteo Corcos, and Giorgio Morandi.

The museum also holds some works by foreign artists such as Braque, Calder, Cézanne, Degas, Duchamp, Giacometti, Kandinsky, Mondrian, Monet, Jackson Pollock, Rodin, and Van Gogh.

The exhibition “Time is Out of Joint” is running until April 2018. The title, derived from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, alludes to the elasticity of the concept of time, a time that is not linear, but stratified. Monet’s *Water Lilies* (1926) hangs across Luca Rento’s *Ninfee* digital animation (2004), Piet Mondrian’s *Grande Composizione A* (1920) above Pino Pascali’s floor installation *32 Mq. di Mare circa* (1967), and Gabriele Basilico’s photography collection *Roma* (2010) adjacent to Federico Cortese’s *Ruderi di un mondo che fu* (1890) - just a few examples of how this exhibition is arranged so any attempt here to analyse and explain the format is impossible!



Canova: *Ercole e Lica*; Mondrian: *Grande composizione A*; Modigliani: *Ritratto di Hanka*; van Gogh: *Il giardiniere*; Kandinskij: *Linea angolare*; Lionne: *Fuori Porta San Giovanni*; Boldini: *Ritratto della marchesa Casati*; Klimt: *The Three Ages of Woman*.



In 2009 the Museum hosted an exhibition of Cy Twombly’s works, to celebrate the artist’s 80th birthday. *The Fall of Hyperion* is permanently on display here. His paintings are predominantly large-scale, freely-scribbled, calligraphic and graffiti-like works on solid fields of mostly gray, tan, or off-white colours. His work has been described as “influential among artists, discomfiting to many critics and truculently difficult not just for a broad public, but for sophisticated initiates of postwar art as well.”

SPANISH STEPS, TREVI FOUNTAIN, PANTHEON, PIAZZA NAVONA



Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck made the Spanish steps famous to an American audience in 1953 with *Roman Holiday*, and the 2015 *Man from UNCLE* film also featured them. The 135 steps were designed to link the Bourbon-controlled area at the top by the Trinita dei Monti church to the Papal Piazza di Spagna, in which you can see the early Baroque Fontana della Barcaccia (Ugly Boat fountain). A house on the right of the steps is where the poets Keats and Shelley stayed when they were in Rome, and it is now a museum for them.

Pots of azaleas decorate the steps in April for the anniversary of the founding of Rome, and local by-laws forbid picnics on the steps.



Throw a coin over your left shoulder into the Trevi Fountain to ensure that you will return to Rome! You will also be contributing to a local charity - the coins are collected every night and used to support a food-bank.

How many roads do you think form a junction near the fountain to give it the name "Trevi"?

The water comes from one of the first aqueducts to supply Rome and the fountain's present form is the result of a competition between architects in 1730. Nicola Salvi initially lost to Alessandro Galilei, but the people were horrified because he came from Florence, so the commission was given to Salvi.



Originally built by Augustus' general Agrippa - M AGRIPPA L F COS TERTIUM FECIT - MA, Lucius' son, Consul for the 3rd time made (this) in 31 BC after the battle of Actium which confirmed Augustus' power. *Pantheon* means temple to all the gods. It was rebuilt by

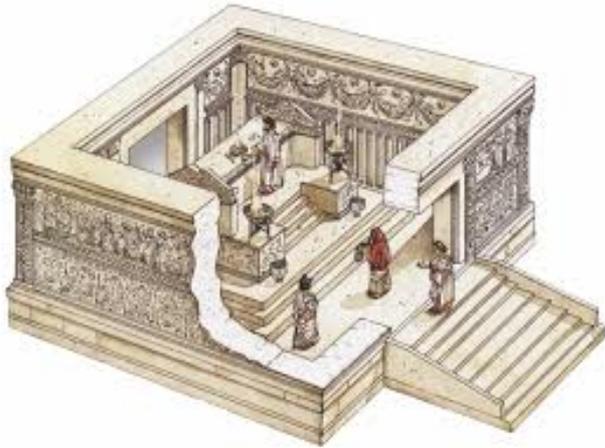
Hadrian and its spectacular dome has remained intact, the only light coming from the *oculus* at the top. It is the best preserved example of an ancient Roman monumental building and has influenced many architects from the Renaissance onwards. It is still in use as a Christian church and the high altars and apses were added later. In the 1630s the Barberini Pope Urban VIII ordered the bronze ceiling of the portico to be melted down for cannons to defend the Castel Sant'Angelo, the Vatican's fortress, and a publicly posted poem joked: *quod non fecerunt barbari fecerunt Barberini* - What the barbarians didn't do, the Barberinis did.



The Piazza Navona was built on the site of the 1st century AD stadium of Domitian where Romans went to watch chariot racing *agona*, so the name may come from that. In the centre is the Fountain of 4 Rivers (1651) by Bernini, topped by the Obelisk of Domitian. At each end are others, by

by Giacomo della Porta. Bernini added a figure wrestling with a dolphin to one and in 1878 Antonio della Bitta added a statue of Neptune to balance this. The family palace of the Pamphili who built the square, lies facing it and from 1652-1866 the square was flooded every weekend in August as part of an elaborate festival to honour the Pamphili. A lovely place to relax now.

ARA PACIS AND MAUSOLEUM OF AUGUSTUS



As the great-nephew of Julius Caesar, who had been assassinated in 44BC because people suspected he wanted to be King, Augustus had quite a challenge even staying alive, never mind becoming Emperor and founding the Julio-Claudian dynasty! Although only aged 18 he was a master of propaganda and since he controlled an unbeatable army, he convinced the Romans that he was a Republican at heart and really wanted to retire and live a private life.

This Altar to Peace conveys the same message found in Virgil's epic poem the *Aeneid* : that Augustus was descended from the Trojan hero Aeneas after he escaped from Troy, and the divine mission entrusted to him was to bring peace to Rome and its Empire. The Altar was commissioned by the Senate in 13BC to honour Augustus' safe return from Spain and Gaul and consecrated in 9BC. It was assembled at its current location in 1938.

The first panel shows a representation of the goddess Roma, suckling a child and enjoying the benefits of peace.

The second shows Aeneas making a sacrifice to the gods as soon as he arrived in Italy. Another panel shows Romulus and Remus (descendants of Augustus) being suckled by the she-wolf before growing up to found Rome.

The third shows a group of senators in a religious procession and members of the Imperial family can be recognised in the fourth.

In striking contrast to the care taken on the reconstruction of the Ara Pacis, Augustus' **Mausoleum**, which he initiated after his victory at the Battle of Actium in 31BC, has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Originally this circular building had cypress trees planted on the top and a corridor ran from the entry to a chamber at the heart of the mausoleum, where there were three niches to hold the golden urns containing the ashes of the Imperial family.