

## «In hopes and dreams». Giacomo Puccini and visual arts

curated by Fabio Benzi, Paolo Bolpagni, Maria Flora Giubilei and Umberto Sereni  
Set-up by Margherita Palli

**Lucca, Fondazione Ragghianti, 18 May - 23 September 2018**

### Press release

The Fondazione Ragghianti in Lucca presents «*In hopes and dreams*». **Giacomo Puccini and visual arts (18 May - 23 September 2018)**, curated by **Fabio Benzi, Paolo Bolpagni, Maria Flora Giubilei and Umberto Sereni**. The exhibition deepens the relationship between Giacomo Puccini and the artists of his time and the influence of the composer and his aesthetics on the visual arts in Italy between the end of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century. A research aimed at giving back to the public new elements, suggestive hints of study and many unpublished works.

Held by the Fondazione Ragghianti in collaboration with the Fondazione Giacomo Puccini, the Centro studi Giacomo Puccini and the Fondazione Simonetta Puccini per Giacomo Puccini, with the patronage of the Regione Toscana, of the Provincia di Lucca, of the municipalities of Lucca, Viareggio, Massarosa and Pescaglia, and **with the sponsorship of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Lucca**, the exhibition develops around a nucleus of paintings and sculptures inspired by Puccini and the characters and situations of his works, but not limiting itself to the iconography.

A second important line of research is that of artists linked to the naturalist trend (Pompeo Mariani and Vespasiano Bignami), to the *Scapigliatura* (Tranquillo Cremona and Eugenio Gignous) and above all to the late-*Scapigliatura*, such as **Luigi Conconi** and Roberto Fontana, with whom Giacomo Puccini was in touch during his stay in Milan in the eighties of the nineteenth century.

Interesting is also the research about those painters who, charmed by his personality, left concrete evidences of their relationships with Puccini, sometimes having worked in his homes in Versilia: **Galileo Chini, Plinio Nomellini**, Guglielmo Amedeo Lori, Edoardo De Albertis, Lina Rosso, Lionello Balestrieri, Libero Andreotti.

A special attention is dedicated to a group of Tuscan painters – Ferruccio Pagni, Angiolo and Lodovico Tommasi, Francesco Fanelli – members of the Club La Bohème in Torre del Lago and linked to Puccini for biographic and artistic matters.

Finally, significant are those artists Puccini appreciated and whose works he collected, or those who contributed to determine (such as **Gaetano Previati**), an aesthetic taste that was sensitive to the musical suggestion equivalent in the Tuscan composer. Or the distinguished photographers such as **Mario Nunes Vais**, Emilio Sommariva, Attilio Badodi and Giovanni Artico, as well as the authors of the posters of the early operas by Puccini (Leopoldo Metlicovitz) and some scenography sketches, stage clothes and furnishings.

«*In hopes and dreams*» is so subdivided into different 'areas', with more than **120 works** – from the most important museums and theatres, enriched by precious and unpublished works from private collections – put in the **fascinating set-up by the famous scenographer Margherita Palli**. A relevant space is dedicated to the photography and to the original documents, with the aim of representing in the round an aesthetic trend, which Puccini contributed to in a decisive way thanks to his works, in a stylistic atmosphere of transition among late naturalism, *Scapigliatura*, Symbolism and Modernism.

The catalogue represents a deep study about the examined subjects, with essays by the curators and other experts, dedicated to the following themes: music in the visual arts between the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century; the portraiture of Giacomo Puccini; iconographic examples of painting and graphics inspired by the Puccini's operas; the relationship between Puccini and the artists of his time; Giacomo Puccini and the 'painters of the lake'; the Puccini's homes (decorations, works of arts, architecture); Giacomo Puccini draughtsman and caricaturist for pleasure; Puccini in the Italian culture of the early nineteenth century.

#### **Scientific committee of the exhibition**

Paolo Bolpagni, Alessandra Belluomini Pucci, Fabio Benzi, Gabriella Biagi Ravenni, Silvestra Bietoletti, Glauco Borella, Giovanna Ginex, Michele Girardi, Maria Flora Giubilei, Massimo Marsili, Eleonora Barbara Nomellini, Umberto Sereni

**Texts in catalogue by** Fabio Benzi, Paolo Bolpagni, Maria Flora Giubilei, Alessandra Belluomini Pucci, Gabriella Biagi Ravenni, Silvestra Bietoletti, Giovanna Ginex, Eleonora Barbara Nomellini, Umberto Sereni, Marco Mei

More informations and images at the link:

<http://www.fondazioneragghianti.it/2018/05/16/mostra-sogni-chimere-giacomo-puccini-le-arte-visive/>

PASSWORD: puccini2018

#### **Fondazione Centro Studi sull'Arte Licia e Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti**

Complesso monumentale di San Micheletto

Via San Micheletto 3, Lucca

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Sunday 10 am - 7 pm

**Regular tickets € 5**

**Reduced price tickets € 3 for:**

- holders of the Puccini Museum Lucca ticket
- groups of more than 15 persons
- under 18
- classes of students
- students of universities, art academies and music conservatories provided with booklet
- teachers
- journalists and tourists guides with ID card

**Free tickets for:**

- children under 6
- disabled people and their companion
- a companion for each group
- members of ICOM
- accredited journalists

Guided tours by reservation (€ 50) for groups

E-mail: [info@fondazioneragghianti.it](mailto:info@fondazioneragghianti.it) / web: [www.fondazioneragghianti.it](http://www.fondazioneragghianti.it)

Info: tel. +39 0583 467205

#### **Press office**

##### **Davis & Co**

Lea Codognato / Caterina Briganti

Tel. +39 055 2347273

[www.davisandco.it](http://www.davisandco.it) - [info@davisandco.it](mailto:info@davisandco.it)

#### **Fondazione Ragghianti**

Elena Fiori

Tel. +39 0583 467205

[elena.fiori@fondazioneragghianti.it](mailto:elena.fiori@fondazioneragghianti.it)