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PINACOTECA NAZIONALE BOLOGNA

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Temporary exhibition from the storage.

# ELISABETTA SIRANI

*Dipinti devozionali e "quadretti da letto"  
di una virtuosa del pennello*

Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande  
18 september - 25 november 2018

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## ***Elisabetta Sirani***

### ***Dipinti devozionali e “quadretti da letto” di una virtuosa del pennello***

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The concept of the exhibition is linked to an important recovery realized by the Nucleo Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale of Bologna: the finding on the antique market, thanks to the advisory of the Pinacoteca, of a small painting with a *Virgin praying* attributed to the well-known Bolognese painter Elisabetta Sirani (Bologna 1638-1665), whose disappearance has been denounced by Enrico Mauceri in 1930.

The restitution of the work to the Pinacoteca and its presentation to the public is accompanied by an exposition of some paintings of Elisabetta, usually kept into the museum storage, with the others normally showed in the gallery (*Saint Anthony of Padua adoring Christ Child*) and in Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande (*Saint Mary Magdalene* and *Saint Jerome*).

The aim of this intimate exhibition is to celebrate Elisabetta Sirani as one of the most representative personalities of the Bolognese School in the XVII century, who followed the artistic lesson of the divine Guido Reni.

Actually, Elisabetta was not directly a student of Reni, who died when she was four years old. First of four kids, she learnt from her father Giovanni Andrea Sirani, who was direct student of Guido.

We can imagine how much the collection of Reni's drawings kept by Giovanni inspired our young painter, who started to practise in a short while.

**Elisabetta Sirani, *Virgin praying*,  
canvas, cm 46x36, Inv. 625**



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Her career started with the production of small paintings used for private devotion, among which those ones that Carlo Cesare Malvasia defined “quadretti da letto” (literally “small bed paintings”), here exhibited.

With *San Bruno* praying, recognizable with the one realized for the Father Superior of the Certosa, Daniele Granchi, are showed also the *Christ Child on the globe*, the *Saint Mary Magdalene praying* and the *Saint Philip Neri in adoration of the Virgin with the Child*, respectively of 1657 and of 1660/61, being part of the collection of the Philippine Father of Santa Maria of Galliera, Ettore Ghisilieri. The *Madonna with Child and Saint John* comes from the Zambecari collection, the famous set which was donated to the Pinacoteca, and which probably kept also the recovered painting and its pendant, the *Blessing Redeemer*.

The two Sibyls were realized for Antonio Maria Padovani, owner of a chapel into the site of the Congregazione della Madonna delle Asse. The scrolls showed by the angels exhibit inscriptions which allude to the mariano cult.

Two portraits of Elisabetta are also exposed. The first one, a *Self-portrait as a saint*, is a fragment of a bigger painting that, as written by the painter in her personal diary – published by Malvasia in 1678, was realized to be placed on one side of the *Baptism of Christ* of the Certosa of 1658, her very first public commission.

The second one is a portrait painted by her sister Barbara (Bologna 1641-1692), painter as well, realized maybe as a memorial after Elisabetta’s death, caused suspiciously for poisoning, on the 28th of August 1665.



Elisabetta Sirani,  
*Saint Mary Magdalene praying*,  
copper, cm 43x32, Inv. 376



Elisabetta Sirani,  
*Christ Child on the globe*, canvas,  
cm 42x30, Inv. 350

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Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande - Via Castiglione 7  
from 18 september to 25 november 2018

## Guided tours

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**Saturday 22nd september 2018, at 21.00** - Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande  
by Tiziana Borea

**Saturday 29th september 2018, at 21.00** - Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande  
by Claudia Pirrello

**Saturday 6th october 2018, at 21.00** - Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande  
by Tiziana Borea

**Saturday 13th october 2018, at 21.00** - Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande  
by Claudia Pirrello

For more information:

[www.pinacotecabologna.beniculturali.it](http://www.pinacotecabologna.beniculturali.it)

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## Museum opening

from Tuesday to Sunday: 8.30 - 19.30  
(the ticketoffice closes 30 minutes before)

## Price

full price euro 6,00

reduced euro 3,00

more info about free entrance and reductions just visit the web site of the Pinacoteca Nazionale of Bologna

Path curated by *Elena Rossoni*

with the collaboration of the volunteers of the National Civil Service: *Micol Boschetti, ppe Fabio De Liso, Giada Forte, Maddalena Flavia Giagnotti, Luna Vitali.*



Polo Museale  
Emilia Romagna

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