

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

London Art Week Exhibition

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Galerie Canesso
26 rue Laffitte
75009, Paris
France

contact@canesso.com

+33 01 40 22 61 71

www.canesso.art



Galerie Canesso brings Italian Old Masters to the London Art Week 2020

Maurizio Canesso is pleased to participate in this international online event, with an exhibition of Italian Old Masters presented in his gallery in Paris.

Highlights

Among the five paintings presented in our exhibition *Love for Art. Love in Art*, we wish to focus on two highlights: Bernardino Licinio's *Young Lady and her Suitor* and Camillo Mainardi's *Chastisement of Love (Mars Whipping Cupid, Restrained by a Fury)*, two extraordinary compositions with contrasting visions of love in the 16th century.

Bernardino Licinio (c.1490-c.1550) shows a Venetian couple celebrating amorous sentiment as they engage in a promise of marriage and prosperity. This painting formed part of prestigious collections such as those of Caroline Murat in Naples and the Comte de Pourtalès in the early-to mid-nineteenth century; it was subsequently on loan to the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco for over sixty years.

Its recent restoration allowed us to unveil a fictive relief in the Classical style that was previously covered by an extensive area of black repaint on the left side of the panel. X-radiography has also brought to light some exciting evidence of the work's creation. Initially,

the pair of lovers faced one another in a different way, with the young woman in profile and her elegant suitor on a slightly lower level. Licinio presents the heroine head-on and set in a private space while her lover remains in an open setting that looks out onto a landscape. This Venetian *Bella donna*, wearing a light chemise that reveals one of her breasts, takes her inspiration from Titian's *Flora* (Florence, Galleria degli Uffizi).



Bernardino Licinio, *Young Lady and her Suitor* © Galerie Canesso Paris



Bernardino Licinio, *Young Lady and her Suitor*, X-Radiography © Arcanes

An allegorical composition by Camillo Mainardi (1544/1549-1608) presents us with an original vision of the loves of Mars and Venus. The god of war, blinded by a Fury with a Medusa's head flogs Cupid and breaks his arrows, while he neglects Venus (chained up in the background) and seems to trample on Virgil's motto: "Love conquers all" (*Omnia vincit Amor*). This motto celebrating the victory of love contrasts with the inscription at upper right *Comutatis in Ferri... Mag... Fulminat*, which conveys a warning that love can imprison. The dynamic foreground scene is inspired by an elegant drawing in the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen. The erudition of this subject suggests an illustrious provenance, probably an aristocratic court such as that of the Gonzaga in Mantua.



Camillo Mainardi (1544/1549-1608), *The Chastisement of Love (Mars Whipping Cupid, Restrained by a Fury)* © Galerie Canesso Paris



Camillo Mainardi, *Mars Whipping Cupid, Pursued by a Fury* © Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen

A Celebration of Love

The gallery presents five paintings of exceptional quality on the theme of Love, one of the most popular subjects in art and literature. These compositions reflect our taste for Italian Old Masters and for history, and with constant research we aim to place them in context and take them out of anonymity. Beyond the rediscovery of these paintings, the ultimate goal is to share them with the public, whether it be a collector, an *amateur* or an art historian.

Ranging from the poet Virgil's "Love conquers all" (*Omnia vincit Amor*) to an allegory of marital promise in sixteenth-century Venetian culture, or the discovery of eroticism, our paintings cover a repertoire of widely-varied romantic situations.

The love affairs of the Olympians gods constitute one of the most favoured subjects of Italian painting. Venus, the goddess of love, assisted by her two children – Eros and Anteros, who always shoot their arrows at the most unexpected moment - is surrounded by a countless little cupids, symbols of prosperity in the composition by the Venetian painter Giulio Carpioni (1613-1678).

Fedele Fischetti (1732-1792) paints Selene, the Goddess of the Moon, as she gladly spends the night admiring the beauty of her lover, Endymion, who thanks to Zeus has fallen asleep forever so as to preserve his youth and beauty. Once again, a bow and arrow are present to emphasize not only the love that unites them but the eroticism that underlies compositions like this one, painted in the eighteenth century by the Neapolitan Fedele Fischetti.

Conversely, the god of Nature, Pan, watches as the nymph Syrinx turns into a reed before his eyes, as she flees from him in one of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* interpreted by the painter Louis Dorigny (1654-1742).

These carefully selected Italian Old Masters paintings constitute an ensemble of the highest quality. Special attention was given to studying their intricate history and to restoring them. We invite you to contemplate these stunning masterpieces and to discover their stories through our curated videos!

Galerie Canesso Paris: a brief history

Driven by his passion for Italian art from Renaissance to Baroque, Maurizio Canesso has dedicated his thirty-year career to discovering and rediscovering masterpieces as well as giving them new life, before they are offered to international clients, both private and public. He founded his Paris gallery in 1994 in the 9th arrondissement, in the heart of the Hôtel Drouot neighbourhood.

Galerie Canesso organizes ambitious exhibitions, often in collaboration with other institutions, and accompanied by their own publications. In 2010, the exhibition on the Master of the Blue Jeans was one of the gallery's most original contributions.

The gallery seeks to stand by collectors on an exclusive, long-term basis, offering paintings that have been appreciated internationally. Furthermore, its close collaboration with art historians and museum curators attests to worldwide success with public institutions (The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and in France, the Musée du Louvre, among others).

Paintings presented for the London Art Week



Bernardino Licinio (c. 1490 - c. 1550)

Young Lady and her Suitor

Oil on wood panel, 32 x 45 in (81.3 x 114.3 cm)

© Galerie Canesso Paris



Giulio Carpioni (Venice, 1613 – Vicenza, 1678)
The Offering to Venus
Oil on canvas, 55 × 69 11/16 in (139.7 × 177 cm)
© Galerie Canesso, Paris

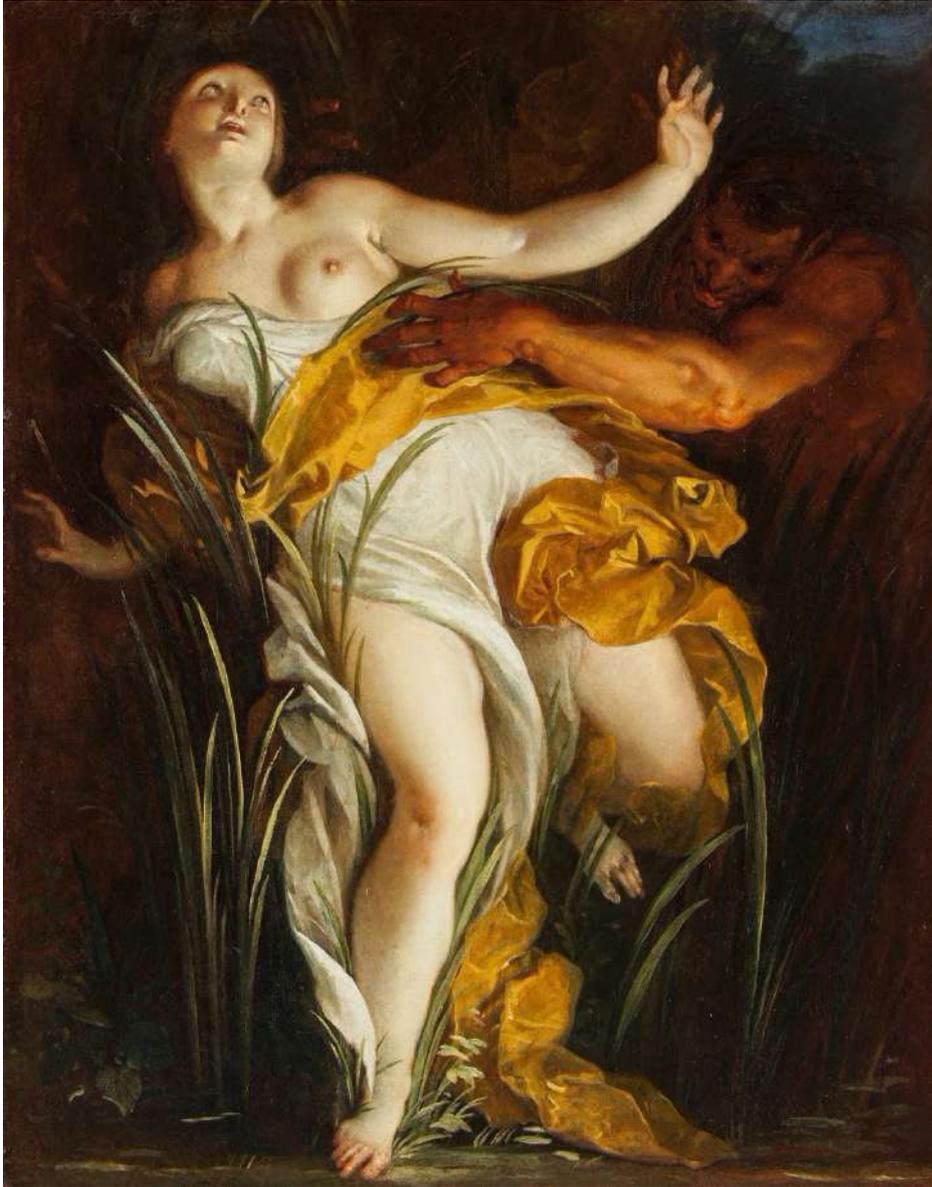


Fedele Fischetti (1732-1792)

Selene and Endymion

Oil on canvas, 25 3/16 x 30 7/16 in (64 x 77.3 cm)

© Galerie Canesso Paris



Louis Dorigny (1654-1742)

Pan and Syrinx

Oil on canvas, 57 3/4 x 44 11/16 in (146.7 x 113.5 cm)

© Galerie Canesso Paris



Camillo Mainardi (1544/1549-1608)
The Chastisement of Love
(Mars Whipping Cupid, Restrained by a Fury)
Oil on wood panel, 16 15/16 x 13 3/8 in (43 x 34 cm)
© Galerie Canesso Paris