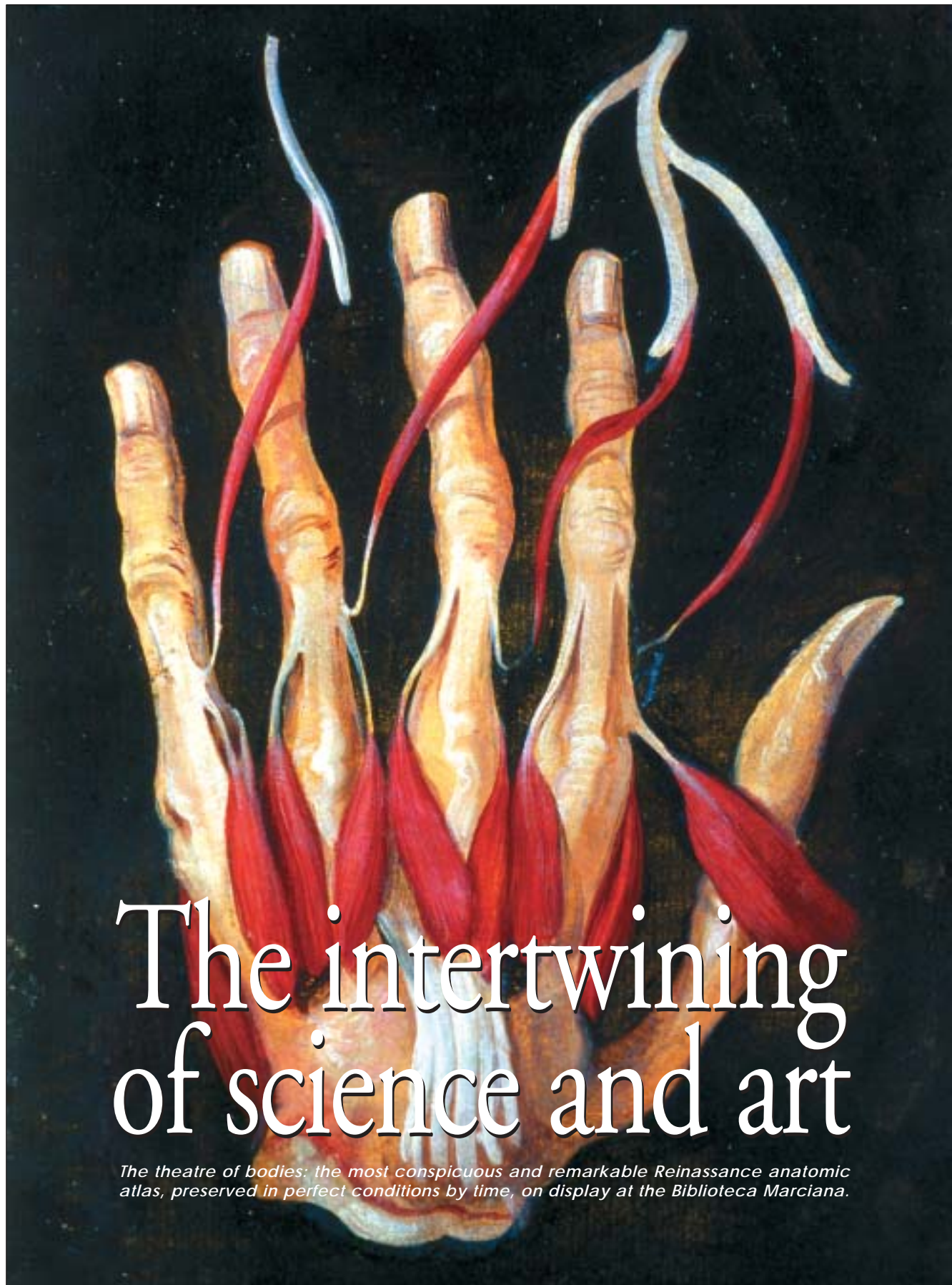


# The intertwining of science and art

*The theatre of bodies: the most conspicuous and remarkable Renaissance anatomic atlas, preserved in perfect conditions by time, on display at the Biblioteca Marciana.*



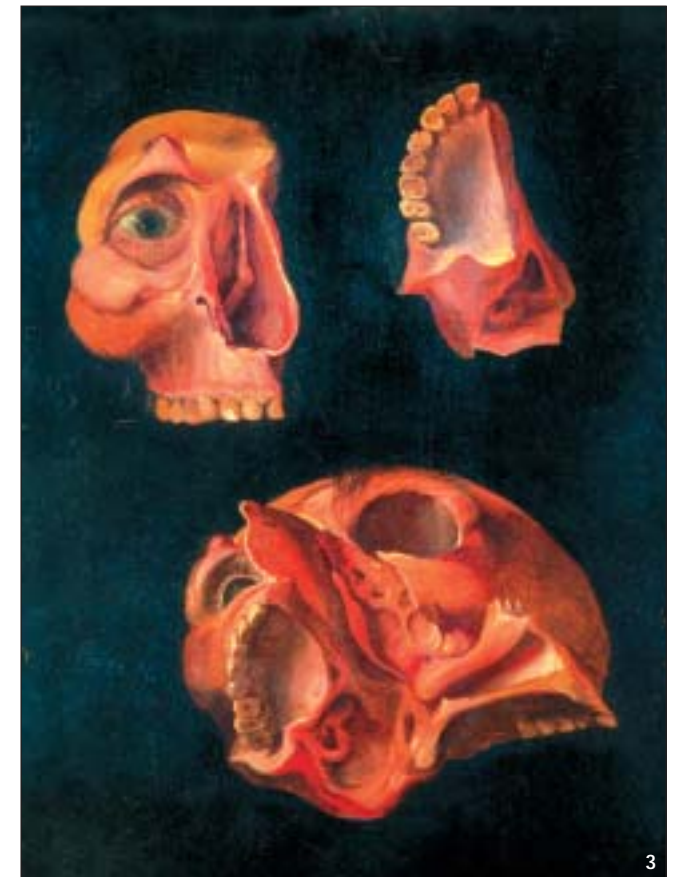
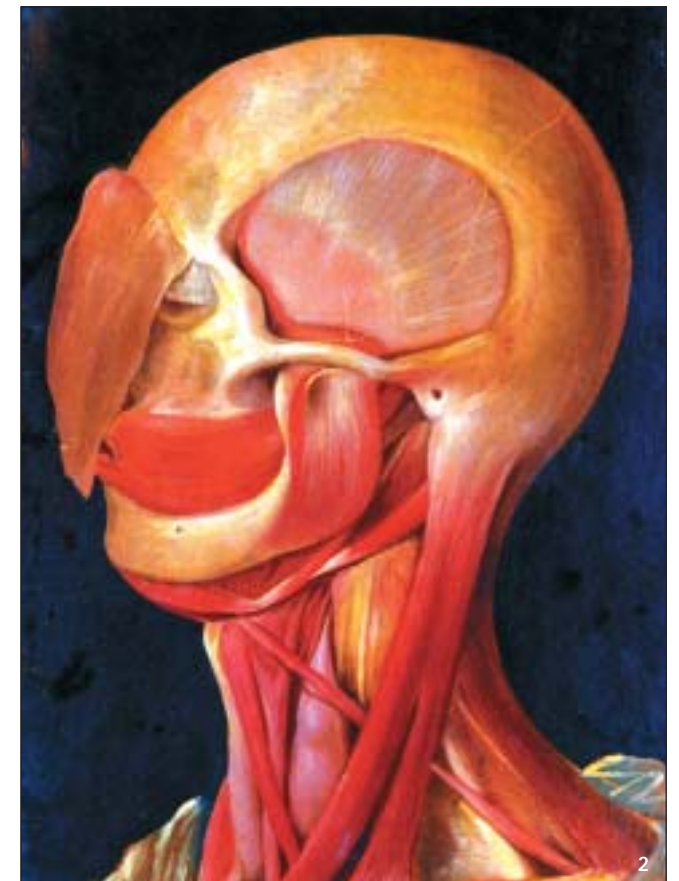
## Quando la scienza incontra l'arte

Il teatro dei corpi: il più consistente e straordinario atlante anatomico rinascimentale giunto intatto fino ai giorni nostri, in mostra alla Marciana.

**G** irolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente, doctor, who lived between 1533 and 1619, was anatomy professor for fifty years at the Padua University. To better teach his students and, more in general, to create a work never conceived nor completed by anyone, the scholar ordered the creation of a series of large anatomic boards – known as “paintings coloured with anatomy” which had to portray the human body in detail as well as the anatomic features of certain animals. This ambitious project, entitled “Totius animalis fabricae theatrum”, was never completed, even if in 1600 more than three hundred boards had been created. Many of them – more than two hundred – are preserved at the “Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana” of Venice.

The show “Il teatro dei corpi – Le pitture colorate d'anatomia di Girolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente” – “The Theatre of the Bodies - paintings coloured with anatomy by Girolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente”, in the “Sale Monumentali” of the “Biblioteca Marciana” from 17th December to 8th May 2005 – conceived and organized by Maurizio Rippha Bonati, aims at displaying the Fabrici's bo-

**G** irolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente, medico, visse tra il 1533 e il 1619 e fu per cinquant'anni insegnante di anatomia all'Università di Padova. Per meglio insegnare ai suoi studenti e, in generale, per realizzare un'opera mai concepita e portata a termine da alcuno, l'esimio studioso fece realizzare una serie di grandi tavole anatomiche – le cosiddette “pitture colorate d'anatomia” – che avrebbero dovuto rappresentare nei minimi particolari il corpo umano e le fattezze anatomiche di alcuni animali. L'ambizioso progetto, intitolato “Totius animalis fabricae theatrum”, non fu mai concluso, nonostante nel 1600 fossero già state realizzate più di trecento tavole. Molte di queste – invero più di duecento – in gran parte inedite, sono oggi conservate presso la Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana di Venezia. La mostra “Il teatro dei corpi - Le pitture colorate d'anatomia di Girolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente” (Sale Monumentali della Biblioteca Marciana dal 17 dicembre 2004 all'8 maggio 2005) ideata e curata da Maurizio Rippha Bonati, intende presentare proprio queste tavole fabriciane come il più consistente e



ards – the most real and extraordinary Renaissance anatomic atlas handed down to us intact – just as they are, in colours, full-sized and with a three-dimensional modality.

The word “theatre” mentioned in the title underlines that it is the place where anatomic dissections are carried out: the most ancient one of the Padua University was built in the period in which Fabrici worked as a professor. The word, according to a widespread Renaissance tradition, indicated any kind of exhibition, both physical and “virtual”, like the work conceived by the Paduan doctor. The symbol chosen to represent the show is the hand, which couldn't be more fitting since this limb – with the musculature manoeuvring fingers – has been studied both by anatomists and by artists (painters and sculptors) in the attempt to portray it in the most faithful way: let us only think about Leonardo da Vinci and the Tiepolos.

The show is hosted in the “Sale Monumentali” of the “Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana”, precisely in the “Sala dei Filosofi” also “Sala del Sansovino”, which has been named after the architect who designed the Library.

The precious volumes and the single boards are placed in twelve large glass cases, all of them exhaustively explained by twelve panels with legends explaining the meaning of each precious work.

straordinario atlante anatomico rinascimentale giunto intatto fino ai giorni nostri, realizzate, come sono, a colori, a grandezza naturale e secondo una modalità tridimensionale. Il termine “teatro” che ricorre nel titolo vuole ricordare come esso sia il luogo dove si effettuano le dissezioni anatomiche: il più antico dell'università di Padova venne costruito proprio durante il periodo in cui insegnò il Fabrici. Ma con questo termine, secondo una diffusa tradizione rinascimentale, era definita qualsiasi forma di esposizione, sia fisica che “virtuale”, come l'opera a stampa che aveva in mente il medico patavino.

La mano è stata elevata a logo simbolo della rassegna e la scelta non poteva non essere più felice poiché questo arto, dalla particolarità distintiva del genere umano, è stato studiato – con la muscolatura che ne manovra le dita – non solo dagli anatomisti ma anche dagli artisti, si citi l'esempio di Leonardo da Vinci o dei Tiepolo. La mostra è ospitata nella Sala dei Filosofi o del Sansovino, dal nome dell'architetto che realizzò il progetto della Libreria.

Dodici grandi vetrine accolgono i preziosi volumi e le tavole sciolte, il tutto esaurientemente esplicito da dodici pannelli che, unitamente alle didascalie sveleranno il significato di ogni prezioso pezzo esposto.

1. Hand portrayed from the back.
2. Head and neck muscles.
3. Particulars of the right eyehole and of the face skeleton.
4. Upper right limb muscles.

# MUSEUMS CITY LISTING

Museums  
Foundations  
Art Galleries  
Private Galleries

Musei  
Fondazioni  
Gallerie d'arte  
Gallerie private

The following list describes famous and interesting museums, theatres and galleries in Venice. Full of useful and detailed information.

Il seguente listing descrive famosi ed interessanti musei, teatri e gallerie della città. Completo di informazioni utili e dettagliate.

## MUSEUMS

### PALAZZO DUCALE

map: F5 - S.Marco, 1 - Tickets: € 11.00  
ph. +39.041.2715911 - Opening: 9 - 17

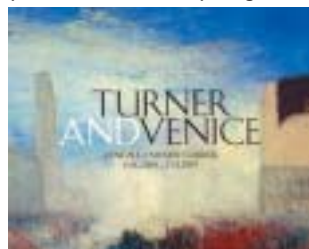


The symbolic seat of Venetian power, formerly the seat of the Doge and State Magistratures, the Palace is the supreme embodiment of Venetian civilisation. A masterpiece of gothic architecture, it reveals a grandiose stratification of constructive and ornamental elements. The interiors, superbly decorated by legions of artists, including Tiziano, Veronese, Tintoretto, Vittoria and Tiepolo, offer a range of different experiences: from the vast halls of political power to the refinement of the Doge's chambers, from the gloom of the prison cells to the luminosity of the loggias overlooking the Piazza and the lagoon.

Temporary exhibition: Recent restoration - a rediscovered Carpaccio: Madonna Adoring the Christ Child with the Infant St. John the Baptist. Until 13 March.

### MUSEO CORRER

map: F5 - S.Marco, 52 - Tickets: € 11.00  
ph. +39.041.2405211 - Opening: 9 - 17



The exhibition is divided into three sections: the neo-classical part, the historical part of Venetian civilisation and the Venetian picture gallery. Visitor will discover the political, social and military history of Venice's Serenissima Republic. Permanent exhibition: collections of weapons, games, marble and bronze sculptures, coins and medals. Paintings by Carpaccio, la Trasfigurazione by Giovanni Bellini, statues and sketches by Canova. Temporary exhibition: Turner and Venice. Until 23 January.

Paolo Veronese: miti, ritratti e allegorie. From 13 February to 29 May.

### MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE

map: D3 - Fondaco dei Turchi, 1730  
ph. +39.041.2750206 - Tickets: Free  
Opening: 10 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)



A partial reopening of the Venetian Museum (closed for restoration) offers visitors a chance to view the renovated hall dedicated to the historical Ligabue Expedition (1973) and, on the ground floor, a new aquarium with more than 50 species of fish and animals. Temporary exhibition: I fossili di Bolca. Tesori dalle rocce. From 22 January to 20 April.

### CA' REZZONICO

Museo del Settecento Veneziano  
map: D5 - Dorsoduro, 3136  
ph. +39.041.2410100 - Opening: 10 - 17  
Closing day: Tuesday - Tickets: € 6.50



This splendid baroque palazzo was restructured and decorated several times. It still preserves beautiful frescoes by Tiepolo on the ceilings of the noble floors. It is furnished with precious original furniture.

Permanent exhibition: paintings by Tiepolo, Canaletto, Guardi, Rosalba Carriera, Pietro Longhi, and Piazzetta. Collections of furniture, Chinese and Venetian vases. Collection of wooden statues by Brustolon. Temporary exhibition: The Tiepolo - Etchings plates from the Museo Correr collections. Until 9 February.

### MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE

Museo Marciano  
map: F5 - S. Marco, 52 - Tickets: € 4.00

ph. +39.041.2405211 - Opening: 9 - 17  
The museum was founded on the bequest of noble Venetian families who operated in the old colonial trade markets. It is located in the building of Procuratie Nuove in St. Mark's Square and contains Roman and Greek finds dating from the 5th century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D. Permanent exhibition: collections of bronzes, ceramics, jewels and coins and very beautiful sculptures with many original Greek and Roman pieces.

### BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE MARCIANA Sale Monumentali

map: F5 - Piazza S. Marco - Tickets: € 11.00  
ph. +39.041.2407211 - Opening: 9 - 17



The building, designed by J. Sansovino, houses the precious book collection of Venice's Serenissima Republic. Permanent exhibition: La Sapienza by Tiziano and the Sala della Libreria decorated with twenty-one tondos on the arched ceiling and philosophers' portraits by Tintoretto and Veronese on the walls. Temporary exhibition: Il teatro dei corpi. Le pitture colorate d'anatomia. Until 8 May.

### MUSEO STORICO NAVALE

map: H5 - Castello, 2148  
ph. +39.041.5200276 - Opening: 8.30 - 13  
Closing day: Sun., holidays - Tickets: € 1.50

The museum contains relics from various regional navies and Italian navy history. The 2nd floor has a room dedicated to the Bucintoro, the gilded ceremonial sea craft of the Doge, used in the solemn ceremonies like Venice's marriage with the sea.

Permanent exhibition: collections of original documents, remains and models of boats of several forms and sizes.

### MUSEO DEL VETRO

Art glass Museum  
map: L2 - Murano, F.ta Giustinian  
ph. +39.041.739586 - Opening: 10 - 16  
Closing day: Wednesday - Tickets: € 4.00

Located in the palace of the Torcello Bishop, it is a typical gothic Venetian building. Important private collections were added to the ancient pieces.

Permanent exhibition: unique extant copies of Murano glass, and Renaissance pieces from the collections of Correr, Moli and Cicogna.

### MUSEO DEL MERLETTO

Burano, Piazza Galuppi  
ph. +39.041.730034 - Opening: 10 - 16  
Closing day: Tuesday - Tickets: € 4.00

Museum entirely dedicated to Burano laces and their history. It is adjacent to the school of this art.

Permanent exhibition: numerous laces made by the annexed school, important designs, photographic and iconographic examples

### CASA GOLDONI

map: F4 - S.Polo, 2794  
ph. +39.041.2759325 - Opening: 10 - 17  
Closing day: Sunday - Tickets: € 2.50

Re-opened to the public on 27th October 2001, Palazzo Centani is the building where the famed Venetian playwright Carlo Goldoni was born. This delightful gothic palazzo today houses a sparkling new, high-tech museum devoted to the playwright's work and includes a host of documents and projections of historical theatrical performances.

Permanent exhibition: Venetian theatrical relics and many texts, original manuscripts and theatrical works of several eras.

### MUSEO FORTUNY

map: E5 - S. Marco, 3780  
ph. +39.041.5200995 - Tickets: € 4.00  
Opening: 10 - 18 Closing day: Monday



Located in a Gothic palazzo, this is a particularly charming museum which, by respecting the initial destination given by Mariano Fortuny, who created his own atelier of photography, sets and staging. It organizes all exhibitions under the theme of visual communication.

Permanent exhibition: collection, ordered for big themes (painting, light, photography, textile workers), representing the results of the artist's investigations. Mariano Fortuny: Journey to Egypt - An Artist's Photographic Notebook.

