



The Palace of the Thermal Baths



The Kursaal Hall

The First Art Exhibition

The artistic landscape during the Liberty period was marked by the coexistence of numerous movements—some rooted in traditional figurative art yet open to experimenting with new styles and techniques, others exploring innovative themes and breaking with the past. In Italy, notable examples include Naturalism, Symbolism, Divisionism, and Futurism. It is a plurality that makes it difficult to “classify” individual artists, many of whom, after training in academic settings (such as the Brera Academy in Milan or the Albertina in Turin), developed personal and original expressive forms throughout their careers. This diverse artistic scene came to life in Stresa in 1910, when the First Art Exhibition was held in the new Terme Palace near the Roddo River—an event that was closely followed by the Verbania magazine. Lena Gignous, daughter of the Milanese painter Eugenio Gignous—who had lived in Stresa since 1887 and died there in 1906—was President of the organizing committee. The committee decided to “admit all painters and sculptors who had created works while residing in the Lake Maggiore basin” and “to include all productions illustrating this lake [...]”. The exhibition featured works by around thirty artists, mostly from Lombardy and Milan. There were many painters, including one woman—Cornelia Risi (1877-1946); several sculptors, such as Giulio Branca of Cannobio (1850-1926), Ernesto Bazzaro (1859-1937), Pietro Canonica (1869-1959), and Paolo Troubetzkoy of Intrà (1866-1938); and an engraver, Vico Viganò (1874-1967). The lake was the central theme, though scenes of mountain villages, woods, forests, and even “a few caricatural attempts by the futurist Borzayni” also appeared.

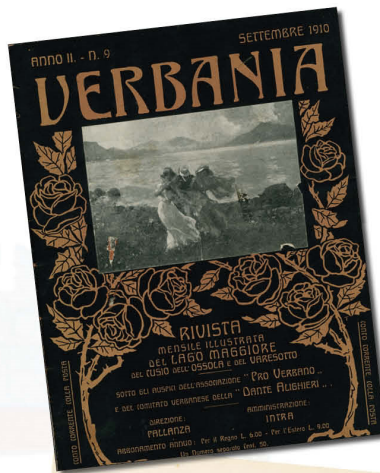
Among the regional artists were Achille Tominetti of Miazzina (1848-1917), Luigi Bolongaro of Stresa (1874-1915), Guido Boggiani of Omegna (1861-1901), and Serafino Verazzi of Meina (1875-1945). Among the leading “masters” were the Milanese artists Filippo Carcano (1840-1914) and Eugenio Gignous, who practiced plein air painting on the mountains and shores of Lake Maggiore, as well as Leonardo Bazzaro (1853-1937), who lived in Alpino.

In the end, national newspapers expressed both praise and criticism, acknowledging “faults and gaps.” Still, the overall verdict was positive, and there were hopes for a similar annual exhibition devoted to the lake—even if “smaller and more intimate” in scope.



The bronze relief, in Art Nouveau style, on the tomb of the painter Eugenio Gignous (1850-1906), buried in the cemetery of Stresa

Three paintings and three styles by three masters: Isola dei Pescatori by Eugenio Gignous, the Mottarone by Filippo Carcano, and the lake seen from Alpino by Leonardo Bazzaro



La prima Esposizione d'Arte, per la quale sono già allestiti i locali gentilmente concessi dalle Terme, sta per aprirsi sotto i migliori auspici. Più di cento sono le opere iscritte, degli artisti Leonardo Bazzaro, Luigi Bolongaro, Achille Tominetti, Paolo Sala, Eugenio Gignous, Guido Boggiani, Cornelia Risi, Muzi, G. Pennaslico, Filippo Carcano, Lodovico Cavaleri, Giulio Branca, Alessandro Gallotti, Ernesto Bazzaro, Emilio Borsa, Vico Viganò, Francesco Vismara, Giovanni Cavalli, Vittorio Castagneto, Serafino Verazzi, Attilio Prandoni, Carlo Fellini, Eugenio Pellini, Elia Sala, Pietro Canonica, Amisani, Paolo Troubetzkoy, La Commissione d'ordinamento è composta dei sigg.: Paolo Sala pittore, Lodovico Cavaleri pittore, Luigi Bolongaro pittore, Luigi Secchi scultore.

L'esposizione si inaugurerà alle ore 10.30 del 1 settembre, alla presenza delle Autorità e degli invitati, Alle due pomeridiane verrà aperta al pubblico.

Nel prossimo numero daremo ampie illustrazioni dell'avvenimento artistico.

