



Exhibition

## LEONARDO DA VINCI: DRAWING THE FUTURE

Tuesday 16 April - Sunday 14 July 2019

*The Royal Museums of Turin  
Sale Palatine of the Galleria Sabauda  
Piazzetta Reale, 1 - Turin*

An event devoted to one of the greatest innovators of all time: the exhibition *Leonardo da Vinci: Drawing the Future* opens at the **Royal Museums of Turin** on 15 April 2019, the day of Leonardo's birth. Commemorating the five hundredth anniversary of his death, and on display in the Sale Palatine of the Galleria Sabauda, the exhibition will be open to the public from 16 April to 14 July.

Curated by Enrica Pagella, Francesco Paolo Di Teodoro and Paola Salvi, the exhibition is organised by the Royal Museums with the Associazione Metamorfosi, in collaboration with the Politecnico University and the University of Turin. The event is promoted by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities with the support of the national committee for the celebrations of the five hundredth anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, with the patronage of the City of Turin and of Regione Piemonte.

The display revolves around the **collection of autograph drawings** by Leonardo da Vinci in the Royal Library of Turin. These include thirteen sheets purchased by King Charles Albert in 1839, and the famous **Codex on the Flight of Birds** donated by Teodoro Sabachnikoff to King Humbert I in 1893. This extraordinary collection of works dates from about 1480 to 1515, with a variety of subjects and sources of inspiration, illustrating Leonardo's activity from his youth to his full maturity.

Some drawings are related to famous masterpieces: the nudes for *The Battle of Anghiari*, the horses for the Sforza and Trivulzio monuments, and the splendid study known as the *Face of a Young Girl*, for the angel in *The Virgin of the Rocks*.

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The display also includes the incomparable, world-famous **Self Portrait of Leonardo**, which is shown interacting with contemporary self portraits by the artists Luigi Ontani, Salvo, and Alberto Savinio. This remarkable section shows how self portraits are as relevant today as they ever have been.

To convey the significance, origin and particularity of Leonardo's work, the creation of the Turin drawings is examined in relation to similar works by other artists, with the inclusion of works by Florentines masters such as Andrea del Verrocchio and Pollaiuolo, Bramante and Boltraffio in Lombardy, through to Michelangelo and Raphael. Bringing together Michelangelo's drawing for *The Battle of Cascina*, Leonardo's drawing for *The Battle of Anghiari* and Raphael's nude men fighting, from Oxford, we see what Benvenuto Cellini referred to as "**the school of the world**".

Also on display is the **Codex Trivulzianus**, on loan from the Biblioteca Trivulziana of the Castello Sforzesco in Milan for the first time since 1935. One capital work is the notebook in which Leonardo wrote his thoughts and reflections on vocabulary.

The exhibition is divided into seven sections, each with its own **possible interpretations of the master's work and of the investigations carried out by Renaissance artists**: the heritage of the art of antiquity, the exploration of the anatomy and the proportions of the human body, the interaction between art and poetry, self portraits, and the study of faces and the challenge of portraying emotions.

Lastly, there are his studies of flight, architecture, and a hitherto unexplored subject: the section entitled **Leonardo and Piedmont**, with mentions of places in Leonardo's writings and, in particular, the folio of the *Codex Atlanticus* with the Ivrea canal.

The display installation is both **accessible and inclusive**, with devices and technologies that not only allow for **sensory access** (for the deaf, blind and visually impaired), but also for broader **cultural and linguistic inclusion**, with effective solutions for various types of perceptive and cognitive needs. Multisensory panels are provided along the way with tactile reproductions of selected works by Leonardo now housed in the Royal Library of Turin. Visitors

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can also use a QR-code or NFC to access multimedia content, such as audio descriptions and explanations in Italian sign language (LIS).

On the occasion of the exhibition, the **University of Turin** is putting on an **interdisciplinary review inspired by the universality of Leonardo**, entitled *Pioneers. Esploratori dell'ignoto da Leonardo ai giorni nostri*. Starting from the drawings on display, sixty-four researchers join the public to examine the subjects investigated by Leonardo, creating a unique space for participation, dialogue and experimentation. Visitors to the exhibition will also play the lead role in a research project on the variations over time of anthropometric measurements inspired by Leonardo's visions, in an innovative **citizen science experiment** proposed by the University of Turin. The interactive exhibit uses a Kinect device to detect the visitor's height and arm span, letting them find out **how close their own physical proportions are to the ideals of the Vitruvian Man drawn by Leonardo**. It will also be possible to see aggregate data in real time on a LED wall on which the "average visitor" to the exhibition will gradually form. The data will be gathered into a larger collection, which will help examine how adaptation to the environment and other factors determine changes in our bodies. The installation is designed and made by auroraMeccanica.

The exhibition *Leonardo.Tecnica e territorio*, curated by the **Politecnico University of Turin** at the Castello del Valentino, interacts with the exhibition at the Royal Museums. The theme examined here is that of the **studies of Leonardo's work that assisted the advance of technical and scientific knowledge in the second half of the nineteenth century**. His investigations assisted the research and teaching at the Politecnico University of Turin right from the first decades of the Royal School for Engineers. The event is also an opportunity to **show the public a sizeable section of the historical book, archive and documentary collections of the Politecnico**, with facsimiles of Leonardo's studies, part of the cartographic collection of the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), and wooden models of machines and structures. Together with the studies by Gustavo Uzielli, a lecturer of Mineralogy and Geology at the School in the nineteenth century and

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an attentive promoter of Leonardo and his methods, we find investigations that illustrate the multidisciplinary experiments and studies that were based on hypotheses first drawn up by Leonardo. Stones, sketches, drawings, maps and photographs from the University collections, as well as films and maps, all accompany the pages of Leonardo's writings. The display includes some rare editions that explore themes related to flight, the movement of water and motion in water, the construction of machines and bridges, and knowledge of the territory, mainly in Piedmont. Admission to the rooms of the Castello del Valentino is only for those with an admission ticket to the Leonardo exhibition issued by the Royal Museums.

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## THE ROYAL MUSEUMS OF TURIN

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

### Opening Hours

The **Royal Museums of Turin** are open from Tuesday to Sunday, 8.30 a.m.-7.30 p.m.  
8.30 a.m. ticket office opens, Court of Honour of the Royal Palace, Gardens  
9 a.m. opening of the Royal Palace and Armoury, the Galleria Sabauda, and the Archaeological Museum

The **Royal Library** is open from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
The **Reading Room** is open from Monday to Wednesday, 8.15 a.m.-6.45 p.m., and Thursday to Saturday, 8.15 a.m.-1.45 p.m.

### Royal Museums of Turin - tickets

Full: €12

Reduced: €6 (young adults aged 18-25 years)

Free for under-18s / teachers with school groups / tour guides / Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities staff / members of ICOM / people with disabilities and carers / holders of the Abbonamento Musei card, of the Torino+Piemonte Card or of the Royal Card. Admission for visitors over 65 is at the normal rate.

The exhibitions included in the admission ticket to the Royal Museums are:

- *Ad acqua. Vedute e paesaggi di Bagetti: tra realtà e invenzione* (until 1 May 2019)
- *Le armi e il potere: l'Arcangelo longobardo* (until 11 May 2019)



**Admission and ticket office opening hours**, Palazzo Reale,  
Piazzetta Reale 1 (8.30 a.m.-6 p.m.)

**Information**

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