

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

The Canesso Gallery presents

THE MASTER OF THE BLUE JEANS

A new painter of reality in 17th century Europe

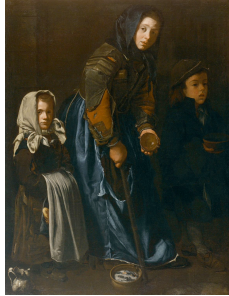


Mother Sewing with Two Children (detail)

16 September - 6 November 2010 – 26, rue Laffitte, Paris 9ème

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens



CONTENTS

Presentation of the exhibition on the Master of the Blue Jeans

Page 2

The Master of the Blue Jeans

Page 5

The Canesso Gallery and its founder, Maurizio Canesso

Page 8

Practical information

Page 12

PRESENTATION OF THE EXHIBITION ON THE MASTER OF THE BLUE JEANS

This autumn, during the same weeks as the Biennale des Antiquaires, the Canesso Gallery will hold an unusual exhibition that will run until 6 November. It will present a newly-discovered Italian seventeenth-century painter, the “Master of the Blue Jeans”.

Gerlinde Gruber, curator at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, and curator of this exhibition, has used this conventional name – apparently anachronistic but precisely appropriate – to dub the anonymous painter. The group of paintings attributed to him include the recurring presence of a blue cloth, whose white thread weave shows the typical structure of Genoese fabric; its place of origin (“Gênes” in French, which became “Geanes” in seventeenth-century English) led to the modern designation of jeans. The works presented show this material worn by various figures in scenes taken from popular life, such as the torn apron of the *Mother Sewing with Two Children* or the jacket of the *Little Beggar-Boy*.

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

The oeuvre of the Master of the Blue Jeans is still very scarce. Of ten known paintings, eight will be present in the exhibition, seven of which are owned by the Canesso Gallery. The exhibition seeks to understand the context of the artist's highly original evolution, and to define his figurative culture. For each of these pictures, various names have been aired: Velazquez, La Tour, Le Nain, as well as Sweerts. The sole evidence one can impose on the work of this artist is that he belongs to the European movement of painters of reality, to which he brings a solemnity and a human dignity that underlie how truly original he is, and which distinguish him from the artists we have just mentioned.

On the other hand, a certain number of considerations, both of style and subject-matter, connect our painter to the Veneto-Lombard context and allow us to date his work to the second half of the seventeenth century. The exhibition will thus make a chronological display of the Master's predecessors and contemporaries: Evaristo Baschenis (1617-1677), Eberhard Keilhau, called Monsù Bernardo (c. 1624-1687), Michael Sweerts (1608 – 1664), and finally Giacomo Francesco Cipper, called Il Todeschini (1664-1736) and his celebrated Lombard follower Giacomo Ceruti (1698-1767).

The Canesso Gallery will also benefit from loans made by foreign institutions: the Galleria dell'Accademia Nazionale di San Luca in Rome has offered the loan of its painting by Michael Sweerts, and the Gemäldegalerie der Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna will collaborate by sending its painting by Bernardo Keilhau, called Monsù Bernardo. The Gallery will also benefit from other significant and generous loans, especially as regards Ceruti, from private collections.

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

We know that blue clothes made of serge have existed since the fourteenth century, but there are very few references to this, and very little tangible evidence. Fabrics were worn until they could no longer be used, and the subject of popular life only entered the museum world very late in history.

The paintings by the Master of the Blue Jeans are thus extremely interesting: from an artistic point of view, by the recent discovery of this painter of reality, and from a historical, sociological and cultural one, by their clear revelation that jeans – such a symbol of modern times – were already appreciated well before the nineteenth century.

The exhibition will be presented in partnership with the designers Marithé and François Girbaud, the French pioneers who have received worldwide recognition for their work with jeans. Their brand, which led to significant changes in the world of textiles, began forty years ago with the invention of Stonewash (bleaching jeans using water and stones) and then became an international symbol of style, with some of the best-selling jeans in contemporary history. The brand has always been defined by creativity, commitment and artistic curiosity, and now offers a new process for creating jeans by ecologically-based laser technology, Wattwash®.

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

THE MASTER OF THE BLUE JEANS



Mother sewing and two children

Oil on canvas

100x180 cm

Paris, Canesso Gallery

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens



Portrait of a young boy
Oil on canvas
86 x 61 cm.
Paris, Canesso Gallery



A mother and her two children
Oil on canvas
153 x 117,4 cm.
Paris, Canesso Gallery

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens



Barber shop
Oil on canvas
150,5 x 115 cm.
Paris, Canesso Gallery



Frugal meal
Oil on canvas
92 x 113 cm.
Paris, Canesso Gallery

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

THE CANESSO GALLERY



The Canesso Gallery was founded in 1994 in Paris by Maurizio Canesso, an active participant in the Old Italian Master art sector since 1980. His activity is exclusively devoted to paintings of the 15th to 18th centuries by Italian painters or foreigners having lived in Italy. The choice of available works, most unpublished, leans toward paintings with religious or mythological themes, but the Gallery also offers portraits, still lives and landscapes.

The Gallery organizes on site exhibitions accompanied by catalogues edited by its staff. Moreover, it participates in two prestigious art fairs: the Tefaf in Maastricht and the *Biennale des Antiquaires* in Paris.

Great care is taken to protect the quality and the conservation of the paintings; acquisitions are subject to the same special care.

Advising and guiding collectors in their choices is a major axis of Maurizio Canesso's work. Close collaboration with art historians and museums' conservators attests to the success of the Gallery in institutions worldwide.

Portrait of Maurizio Canesso

For over 30 years Maurizio Canesso has been passionate about old master Italian paintings, and particularly those from the region where he was born, Lombardy. When he was 20 years old and still studying Economics at the University of Milan, he bought his first painting, by Francesco Cairo, *Christ and the Samaritan*, which he then quickly resold to an Italian attorney who, in turn, became a great patron of the art from Lombardy.

Since then Maurizio Canesso has traveled in Italy, in North and in South America, and in Europe looking for authentic works to enlarge private collections and those of international institutions. With professor Dante Isella (philologist and literary critic) one of the first to have entrusted him with the task of enriching his collection, he developed his interest and his knowledge of Italian 17th century painting, and in particular of works from the Lombardy region regarding the counterreformation, with artists such as Cerano, Procaccini, Morazzone, Tanzio and Serodine.

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

Little by little this interest spread from Milan to Bergamo and Mantua where Maurizio deepened his knowledge about Leonardo and the leonardesque painters, Mantegna, and the eclectic painters from Lombardy and from Cremona. In 1984, upon the suggestion of Piero Corsini, he left Italy to work in New York. He came back to Europe in 1986 to start his own business in France where collectors are charmed by his straightforward approach to works of art which are often extremely complex.

The Canesso Gallery : references

The Gallery sells works of art to both private collectors and institutions. The following list includes some of our paintings, now in public Museums.

- ♦ Paris, Louvre : Luca Cambiaso, *Venus and Adonis*
- ♦ Paris, Louvre : Tanzio da Varallo, *Virgin and Child with St. Charles and St. Francis*
- ♦ Richmond, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts : Domenico Maroli, *Euclid of Megare Dressing as a Woman to Hear Socrates Teach in Athens*
- ♦ Austin (Texas), Blanton Museum of Art : Luca Cambiaso, *Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist*
- ♦ Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, Paris Bordon, *Rest during the flight into Egypt with St. Catherine and angels*
- ♦ Bologna, Museo della Città : Amico Aspertini, *Birth of the Virgin*, Lorenzo Costa, *Adoration of the Child*
- ♦ Bologna, Pinacoteca : Guido Reni, *Ariadne*, Guido Reni, *Christ*, Annibale Carracci, *Landscape*
- ♦ Genoa, Palazzo Bianco : Luca Cambiaso, *Portrait of the artist with his father*

Galerie Canesso

Tableaux anciens

Our paintings are also promoted with exhibitions at the Gallery with additional loans of important paintings from private collectors or from museums. This happened for instance during our exhibition of Neapolitan still life, *L'oeil gourmand. Parcours dans la nature morte napolitaine du XVII^e siècle*, (Paris, Galerie Canesso, 26 September– 27 October 2007). The Gallery also loans its paintings to museums for important international exhibitions. Some key exhibitions include:

- ♦ *Un'altra bellezza. Francesco Furini*, by Mina Gregori and Rodolfo Maffeis, Florence, Palazzo Pitti, Museo degli Argenti, 22 December 2007 – 27 April 2008.
- ♦ *Agostino Tassi (1578-1644). Un paesaggista tra immaginario e realtà*, by Patrizia Cavazzini, Rome, Palazzo Venezia, 19 June – 21 September 2008.
- ♦ *Valerio Castello (1624-1659). Genio moderno*, Genoa, Museo di Palazzo Reale, Teatro del Falcone, 15 February – 15 June 2008.
- ♦ *Luca Cambiaso (1527-1585), un maestro del Cinquecento europeo*, by Jonathan Bober, Austin (Texas), Blanton Museum of Art, 15 September 2006 – 14 January 2007; Genoa, Palazzo Ducale-Musei di Strada Nuova-Palazzo Rosso, 3 March 2007 – 8 July 2007.
- ♦ *Tiziano e il ritratto di corte da Raffaello ai Carracci*, Naples, Museo di Capodimonte, 25 March – 4 June 2006 ; *Titien. Le pouvoir en face*, Paris, musée du Luxembourg, 13 September 2006 – 21 January 2007.
- ♦ *Micco Spadaro. Napoli ai tempi di Masaniello*, Naples, Certosa di San Martino, 20 April – 30 June 2002.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

❖ **O**PENING DAYS AND HOURS :

Monday to Friday, 10 am to 6 pm
Or on appointment

❖ **A**DDRESS AND DIRECTIONS :

Canesso Gallery - 26, rue Laffitte - 75009 Paris
Métro : Richelieu-Drouot - lines 8 and 9
Car parks : Chauchat Drouot – 12, rue Chauchat – 75009 Paris

❖ **I**NFORMATION :

Tel : + 33 1 40 22 61 71
Fax : + 33 1 40 22 61 81
E-mail : contact@canesso.com
Website : www.canesso.com

❖ **P**UBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS :

BRIGITTE DE ROQUEMAUREL / CLAUDIA RIGOUZZO
4, SQUARE ALBONI
75016 PARIS
FRANCE
Tél. : + 33 (0)1.45.24.66.67 – Fax : + 33 (0)1.40.50.16.37
E-mail : b.de-roquemaurel@wanadoo.fr