

15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 –  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2025

# The horse, the mazzocchio and the Master's image

## Milanese drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Francesco Melzi

Under the scientific  
supervision of **Martin  
Kemp**, Professor Emeritus  
of Oxford University

Eleven years after its  
opening, the museum in  
Piazza della Scala in Milan is  
for the first time. **Exhibiting  
three original drawings**  
on loan from the Veneranda  
Biblioteca Ambrosiana,  
celebrating the synergic  
bonds between the Maestro,  
his successors and the city.



**Martin Kemp**

Emeritus Professor of Art History  
(Trinity College, Oxford University)  
and Leonardo3 scientific advisor

*Milan, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024:* A sophisticated study of a horse for the equestrian monument dedicated to Francesco Sforza by Leonardo da Vinci c. 1490 (F 263 inf. 91) and a detailed plan for a three-dimensional scale model of a *mazzocchio* (c. 1510; Codex Atlanticus, f. 710 a-b), alongside a profile portrait of the Maestro, rarely exhibited to the public, drawn by Francesco Melzi from 1515-1518 (F 263 inf. 1 bis): these are the drawings on loan from the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana that will be showcased at an exhibition entitled, *Il cavallo, il mazzocchio e il volto del Maestro (The horse, the mazzocchio and the Master's image)*. *Milanese Drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Francesco Melzi*, being held at Museo Leonardo3 from **15<sup>th</sup> November 2024-15<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. Museo Leonardo3 is a museum and study centre in Piazza della Scala in Milan that has been scientifically studying and promoting Leonardo da Vinci's work since 2004. **Eleven years after its opening**, for the first time the museum is exhibiting **original drawings by Leonardo da Vinci alongside over 200 interactive 3D machines and working physical reconstructions** – almost all of which have never been built before – recreated by analysing the original manuscripts by the Tuscan maestro.

*Il cavallo, il mazzocchio e il volto del Maestro (The horse, the mazzocchio and the Master's image)*. *Milanese Drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Francesco Melzi* – curated by the **Leonardo3 Research Center** under the **supervision of Martin Kemp**, professor emeritus of Oxford University and scientific advisor to the Museum and Research Center – focuses on a small collection of drawings that highlight the close, synergic **bonds between da Vinci and the city of Milan**: the same kind of bonds that are such a fundamental aspect of the museum's mission.

The exhibition is also an opportunity to focus on the *mazzocchio*, a very intricate perspective projection drawn out of **32 octagonal sections**, which is preserved in the Codex Atlanticus: this is not just a simple drawing on paper, since in the manuscript Leonardo also suggests a method for constructing a lead version based on a calculation of the number of **pieces** needed, **512**. In addition to Leonardo's original drawing, this will also be the first time the museum has exhibited a **metal version** of the object created by a team of experts from **Leonardo3 Research Center**. The exhibition is being organised with the support of the **Nuova Fondazione Rossana & Carlo Pedretti**.

The exhibition will allow **Museum Leonardo3 to enhance its permanent collection**. It will be presenting a new interactive wall called *I disegni di Leonardo da Torino a Milano (Leonardo's drawing from Turin to Milan)* to the press on 14<sup>th</sup> November. This digital installation is focused on a selection of drawings by the Maestro and his workshop. Thanks to a successful agreement with conservation institutes, the substantial *body of work* kept in the **Royal Library of Turin** is being supplemented with a selection of works by Leonardo and other Leonardo-inspired painters from Milanese collections (two from the Civico Gabinetto dei Disegni in **Sforza Castle** and another two from the Gabinetto dei Disegni of **Pinacoteca di Brera**), including five drawings from the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana. The installation involves interaction with high-definition digital reproductions of the drawings arranged in theme groups indicating their reciprocal correlations. Once selected on the main screen, each of these can be explored in detail using a magnifying device, so as to visually appreciate, better than ever before, their distinctive properties and qualities.



Later on the same day it took place the **round table for experts only** entitled, *I disegni di Leonardo da Torino a Milano: le tecniche, le materie, gli strumenti (Leonardo's drawing from Turin to Milan: techniques, materials, tools)*. An opportunity for further study that (will) enabled those in charge of the management of the conservation institutes who support the project to converse with a Leonardo expert of international standing, testifying to the **importance of Museo Leonardo3 as an interaction point for in-depth studies into Leonardo**, even for scholars/experts.

Moderated by **Marco Versiero** from Museo Leonardo3, those taking part (will) included: **Alessia Alberti** (Civico Gabinetto dei Disegni e Raccolta delle Stampe "Achille Bertarelli"), **Isabella Fiorentini** (Head of the Trivulziana Library, Castello Sforzesco), **Martin Kemp** (Professor Emeritus, Oxford University), **Letizia Lodi** (Head of Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe e Drawings and Prints Cabinet, Brera Art Gallery), **Marzia Pontone** (Archiving and Bibliographical Superintendence of Piedmont and Val d'Aosta), **Annalisa Rossi** (Archival and Bibliographical Superintendence of Lombardy), **Paola Salvi** (Department of Visual Arts, Brera Fine Arts Academy), **Sara Tagliagalamba** (Head of Rossana and Carlo Pedretti Foundation), **Francesca Tasso** (Head of Sforza Castle Museums, Archaeological Museums and Museum of the Risorgimento).

The exhibition entitled *Il cavallo, il mazzocchio e il volto del Maestro (The horse, the mazzocchio and the Master's image)*. *Milanese Drawings by Leonardo da Vinci and Francesco Melzi* will be accompanied by a bilingual catalogue published by Leonardo3, which includes written contributions by Martin Kemp, Gianluca Poldi, Benedetta Spadaccini, Sara Tagliagalamba, Marco Versiero and Edoardo Zanon.

The exhibition *Il cavallo, il mazzocchio e il volto del Maestro (The horse, the mazzocchio and the Master's image)* is curated by Massimiliano Lisa, Leonardo3 Museum Director and Edoardo Zanon, Scientific Director.

Press Office for the exhibition *Il cavallo, il mazzocchio e il volto del Maestro*

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