



PSR per l'Umbria 2014-2022 Misura 19.3 "Umbria: lasciati sorprendere!"



Pietro
PERUGINO

Luca
SIGNORELLI

Two great innovating
masters, coeval between
the 15th and 16th centuries

Itineraries in Umbria

Pietro Perugino

Pietro di Cristoforo Vannucci, known as Perugino (1448 Città della Pieve - 1523 Fontignano), was defined as "The best master in Italy" by Agostino Chigi. In his time, he was considered the greatest painter of the renewal of Italian art, in the most important moment of the Renaissance, between the 15th and 16th centuries. At the end of the 15th century, his art led him to be defined as the first painter of Italy. Vasari considered him the pioneer of a new way of painting: "His painting was so popular that people came from Spain, France and Germany" to observe and imitate it. He was used to repetitive reuse of his models through drafts, but at that time the replication of a subject was not considered a lack of creativity, but rather a confirmation of the success as it was often required by the client.

Perugino gives his subjects a communicative intensity and vibrations of colors and light; his compositions are of exceptional balance: people, landscapes, and perspectives are enveloped in air and light, every object is in harmony between earth and sky, and everything takes part in the action.

Perugino achieved success thanks to Pope Sixtus IV, who in 1482 wanted him in the Sistine building site to direct most of the frescoes, signing masterpieces such as "The Baptism of Jesus" and the "Consignment of the Keys". Luca Signorelli was his assistant on that occasion, being responsible for painting the scene called "Death and Testament of Moses".

Perugino was the first artist-entrepreneur, simultaneously managing two workshops, one in Florence and one in Perugia, from which numerous pupils emerged, including Raffaello Sanzio. Taking up the master's models, he began the highest expression of the Renaissance ideal. The "Divine Painter" died in 1523 in Fontignano, probably while he was painting "The Madonna with Child" in the local church.



Pietro Perugino Works in Umbria

The itinerary in Umbria starts from **Città della Pieve**, the birthplace of the master, where people can admire the **Adoration of the Magi** in the **Oratory of Santa Maria dei Bianchi** (1504), the **Baptism of Christ** and the **Madonna with Child and Saints Gervasio**, **Pietro Paolo and Protasio** in the **Cathedral and the Deposition from the Cross** in the **Diocesan Civic Museum of Santa Maria dei Servi**. From Città della Pieve it comes to **Panicale**, a small medieval village; here, in the **Church of San Sebastiano**, there is a fresco dedicated to the martyrdom of the same saint (1505). Then the visitor reaches **Fontignano**. Here, the last work of the painter, the **Madonna Enthroned with the Child**, is kept in the **Church of the Annunziata** as well as his tomb. The itinerary goes to **Corciano**; in the **Church of Santa Maria Assunta**, there is an altarpiece depicting the **Virgin's Assumption into Heaven**. In **Perugia**, in the **National Gallery of Umbria**, various works are exhibited including the **Adoration of the Magi**, the **banner with the Pietà**, and **Our Lady of Consolation**. In the **Collegio del Cambio** the "Divine Painter" frescoed the **Audience Hall**, also including his self-portrait. In the **Chapel of San Severo**, it is possible to admire the fresco of the **Trinity and Saints**, started by Raphael.



Perugia - National Gallery of Umbria
Our Lady of Consolation (1505)



Corciano - Church of Santa Maria Assunta
Virgin's Assumption into Heaven (1505)



Panicale - Church of San Sebastiano
Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian (1505)



Città della Pieve - Oratory of Santa Maria dei Bianchi Adoration of the Magi (1504)

In **Deruta**, in the **Municipal Art Gallery**, a fresco dating back to 1476 represents the **Eternal Blessing between Saints Romano and Rocco** with a view of the city. Another work where the middle valley of the Tiber is visible is the fresco depicting **Saint Sebastian and fragments of Saint Rocco and Saint Peter** in the church of **Santa Maria Assunta in Cerqueto**.

A painting representing **Saint Anthony of Padua** and devout (1512-1513) and **Our Lady of Mercy with Saints Stephen and Jerome** are exhibited in the museum of **Bettona**. In 1486 Perugino also worked in the Church of **Santa Maria degli Angeli** in Assisi on the external wall of the Porziuncola, where he depicted a large **Crucifixion**. In Spello and Trevi some of the last works datable to 1521 are kept: the **Pietà** and the **Madonna Enthroned with Child and Saints**, located on the sides of the altar of the **Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Maggiore** in Spello, and the **Adoration of the Magi, Saints Peter and Paul and the Annunciation** in the **Church of Santa Maria delle Lacrime** in Trevi.

The fresco of the **Nativity** in the **Museum of San Francesco** in **Montefalco** dates back to 1503 and recalls the same subject and the same composition as the painting made three years earlier at the **Collegio del Cambio**.

The itinerary ends in the historic center of Foligno, in the **Oratory of Nunziatella**, where there is the **Baptism of Christ with the Eternal** in glory between two Angels.

Luca Signorelli

Luca d'Egidio di Ventura, known as Signorelli (Cortona 1450-1523), was a disciple of Piero della Francesca, who excellently used the perspective. Despite Piero's persistent influence, he developed a sound harmony between plastic and motion in conformity with contemporary Florentine research. He adopted indeed the pictorial techniques of the second half of the 15th century, especially those of Palladio and Sandro Botticelli. He shares his insistence on reconstructing anatomical features only with Michelangelo Buonarroti.

He met Andrea del Verrocchio and collaborated with Perugino and Bartolomeo della Gatta in the "Consignment of the Keys" in the Sistine Chapel. But his great fame is undoubtedly linked to the cycle of frescoes in the Cappella Nova of the Cathedral of Orvieto, a work that Michelangelo himself appreciated so much, from which he probably drew inspiration for the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. His style is very original, the composition is tight, the color thickens to exalt the plasticity of forms and the light invests the people depicted defining their volumes and enhancing their pathos.

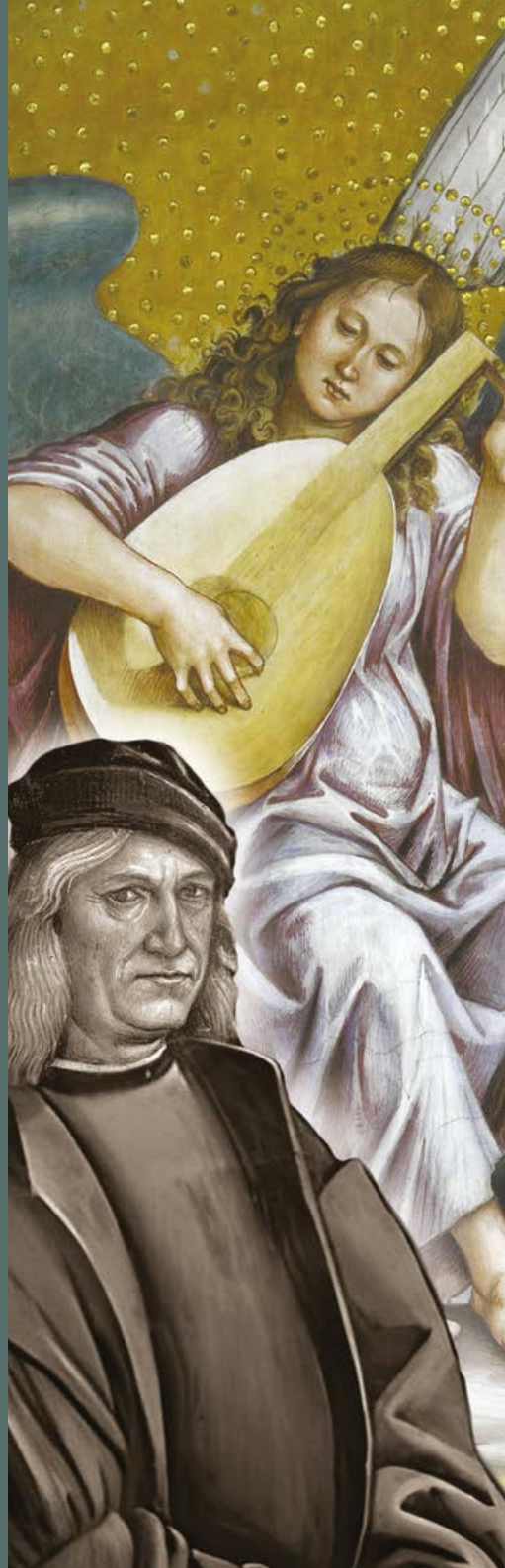
The last years of his life were spent between the Marches, Tuscany, and Northern Umbria, assisted by his collaborators.

His drawings preserved in the Uffizi, the Louvre and the British Museum in London are beautiful.

How others see him:

"Luca Signorelli finished the chapel that Fra Giovanni da Fiesole had already begun: he depicted all the stories of the end of the world, with bizarre and capricious creativity ... imagining the fear that will be in that extreme, terrible day" (Giorgio Vasari);

"Signorelli knows how to express horrors and delights making people rise in ecstasy" (Leonardo da Vinci).





Perugia - Chapter Museum of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo - Saint Onuphrius' Altarpiece (1484)

Luca Signorelli Works in Umbria

Starting from **Perugia**, where Signorelli was commissioned to paint the **Saint Onuphrius' Altarpiece** (today kept in the **Chapter Museum of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo**) (1484), the itinerary goes to **Città di Castello**, where a **Majesty among Saints** (1474) is in the **Municipal Art Gallery**.

In the same gallery, there are the beautiful **Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian** (1498) and the **Processional Banner with the Baptism of Christ and Saint John the Baptist** dating back to the early 16th century.

In the village of **Morra**, not far from Città di Castello, in the small **Oratory of San Crescentino**, Signorelli painted a cycle of frescoes inspired by the Passion of Christ (1507). In **Citerna**, the fresco depicting the **Virgin and Child between Saints Michael the Archangel and Francis** is in the **Church of San Francesco**. In the church of **Santa Croce** in **Umbertide**, today the seat of the **Museum of Santa Croce**, Signorelli painted a **Deposition** (1516), exceptionally still provided with the original predella and frame.

The masterpiece in Umbria is undoubtedly the splendid decoration of the **New Chapel of San Brizio** in the right transept of the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta** in **Orvieto**, painted from 1499 to



Città di Castello - Municipal Art Gallery
Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian (1498)

1504. Signorelli had been commissioned to finish the decoration of the vault, begun about fifty years earlier by **Beato Angelico**, and to carry out that of the entire chapel.

Before leaving Orvieto, at the end of this itinerary, a visit to the **Museum of the Cathedral**, where an oil on wood depicting **Saint Mary Magdalene** is kept, originally located in the chapel of Saint Brizio and dated 1504, is recommended.



Città della Pieve

- **Oratory of Santa Maria dei Bianchi**

Via Pietro Vannucci, 40

- **Cathedral of Santi Gervasio e Protasio**

Piazza Plebiscito, 11

Info: 0578 298002

- **Diocesan Civic Museum of Santa Maria dei Servi**

Via Beato Giacomo Villa, 5

Info: info@secretumbria.it



Perugia - Chapter Museum of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo

Cloister of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo

Piazza IV Novembre

Info: 075 572 4853

Città di Castello - Municipal Art Gallery

Largo Monsignore Muzzi, 9A

Info: 075 855 4202

Panicale - Church of San Sebastiano

Via Belvedere, 10

Info: 075 837433

Fontignano - Church of the Annunziata

Via Arezzo, 12

Corciano - Church of Santa Maria Assunta

Via della Corgna, 6

Perugia

- **National Gallery of Umbria**

Corso Pietro Vannucci, 19

Info: 075 5721009

- **Collegio del Cambio**

Corso Pietro Vannucci, 25/D

Info: 075 5728599

- **Chapel of San Severo**

Piazza Raffaello

Info: 075 5728599

Deruta - Municipal Art Gallery

Piazza dei Consoli, 12

Info: 075 9711000

Bettona - Local Museum

Piazza Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour, 3

Info: 075 987347

Santa Maria degli Angeli

- **Cathedral of Santa Maria degli Angeli**

Piazza Porziuncola

Info: 075 8051430

Spello - Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Maggiore

Piazza Giacomo Matteotti, 18

Info: 0742 301792

Trevi - Church of Santa Maria delle Lacrime

SP 425, 2

Info: 0742 278232

Montefalco - Museum of San Francesco

Via Ringhiera Umbra, 6

Info: 0742 379598

Foligno - Oratory of the Nunziatella

Info: 0742 330584



E X H I B I T I O N S

PERUGIA

“IL MEGLIO MAESTRO D’ITALIA”

Galleria Nazionale dell’Umbria

4 March - 11 June 2023

CITTÀ DELLA PIEVE

“AL BATTESIMO FU CHIAMATO PIETRO”

Palazzo della Corgna - Chiesa di S. M. dei Servi

1 July - 30 September 2023

CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO

“TRA PERUGINO E SIGNORELLI

L’INVENZIONE DEL PAESAGGIO”

Overview between real and virtual

Palazzo della Corgna - Fortezza Medievale

17 June - 8 October 2023

CORTONA

“SIGNORELLI 500 - MAESTRO LUCA DA CORTONA,
PITTORE DI LUCE E POESIA”

MAEC - Palazzo Casali

23 June - 8 October 2023

ALTO TEVERE UMBRIA (Northern Umbria)

“LA VALLE DI SIGNORELLI”

(“THE VALLEY OF SIGNORELLI”)

Exhibition hosting 10 works by Signorelli
one admission ticket

2 April - 31 December, 2023

MONTE SANTA MARIA TIBERINA

“ARTISTI AL MONTE”

(“ARTISTS IN THE MOUNTAIN”)

Tribute to Pietro Vannucci (Il Perugino) and Luca
Signorelli

20/21 and 27/28 May 2023

MONTONE

“CELEBRANDO LUCA SIGNORELLI”

(“CELEBRATING LUCA SIGNORELLI”)

Exhibition of archival documents that tell of the
artist’s presence and pictorial production in the area
of Montone.

Discovering the Renaissance in Montone: guided tours
and workshops celebrating the 500th anniversary of
the death of Signorelli and Perugino.

July 29, 2023 - January 6, 2024



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www.peruginoesignorelli.it

All the images in this publication were provided by Gal Trasimeno-Orvietano.