

MAGNIFICI RITORNI

TREASURES OF AQUILEIA
IN THE KUNSTHISTORISCHES
MUSEUM IN VIENNA

The exhibition "Magnifici Ritorni" brings back to Aquileia some of the most important archaeological finds from excavations in its very rich territory, which the Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna now shows and preserves. Some masterpieces coming from the ancient city are here presented, often for the first time, within the historical context in which they were first created and then used.

This exhibit gives the opportunity to narrate the modalities and the development of the intense activity of collecting, excavation and research which lasted more than two centuries, and allowed a progressive re-discovery of the Roman city of Aquileia. This happens in the year when Aquileia celebrates 2200 years since its foundation.

Findings from Vienna narrate, in particular, the early stage of the long path to the establishment of this museum, when the Imperial Royal Cabinet of Coins and Antiquities, the original core of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, represented the institutional point of reference for the conservation of antiquities from Aquileia. Civil servants were in charge of the control of all excavation works aimed at the recovery of building materials or finding of antiquities.

Therefore, in the nineteenth century numerous finds coming from Aquileia arrived in Vienna through official channels, after a close examination by local authorities.

A law in force until 1846 transferred to the state government a right concerning the findings and agreed a compensation to discoverers and landowners. Other valuable materials reached the Austrian capital as gifts to the Emperor or by means of buying and selling between individuals.

The first archaeological excavations with scientific purposes and the subsequent institution, in 1882, of the Imperial Royal Museum of the State of Aquileia marked a clear change in research activities paving the way for a promotion of the extraordinary heritage of Aquileia.

The "Glorious Returns" from the museum in Vienna converse with all the materials that gradually joined the permanent collection traveling along different routes. Now, these add another piece to the narration of the ancient city, which develops through the new exhibition itinerary of the museum.

On the ground floor stand out the marble relief with the representation of Mithras Tauroctonus that brings back to the ancient cults which reached Aquileia after a long journey from the East, the eagle statue dating back to the 2nd century AD worked in a single block of marble, the relief which represents a scene of ritual sacrifice of a bull in front of an altar and the so-called Venus of Aquileia, which is exposed for the first time to the public after the restoration carried out thanks to the Aquileia Foundation.

On the second floor the exhibition continues with the male portrait, some heads of divinity, the exceptional silver plate with a complex allegorical representation of abundance and the celebration of agriculture and the wonderful bronze cross of the fourth century with the monogram given by the intersection of the initials of the Greek name of Christ as well as numerous bronzes.

The collection of gems and vitreous pastes originally coming from Aquileia and preserved in the Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna is mainly linked to the activity of Girolamo de' Moschettini. In his quality of imperial officer responsible for the antiquities of Aquileia, he collected a patrimony with the aim of avoiding dispersion of crafts, in his awareness they had not only a pecuniary value, but a scientific and aesthetic one too.



MAGNIFICI RITORNI
09 giugno - 20 ottobre 2019

SEDE
Museo Archeologico Nazionale
Via Roma 1, Aquileia (UD)

ORARIO
dal martedì alla domenica 10-19
la biglietteria chiude un'ora prima
(lunedì chiuso)

PREZZO
€ 10 (ingresso Museo Archeologico Nazionale + mostra)
€ 16 (Biglietto UNICO comprensivo di ingresso Museo Archeologico Nazionale, mostra, Basilica, cripte, campanile, battistero e domus e palazzo episcopale)

Ingresso gratuito fino ai 18 anni e per le categorie previste dal MIBAC

Per i gruppi si richiede la prenotazione all'indirizzo mail:
museoaquileiadidattica@beniculturali.it
o al numero: 0431 91035

MAGNIFICI RITORNI
09th June - 20th October 2019

LOCATION
Museo Archeologico Nazionale
Via Roma 1, Aquileia (UD)

OPENING HOURS:
Tuesday to Sunday 10 am-7pm
the ticket office closes an hour earlier
(closed Mondays)

PRICE:
€ 10 (entrance to the National Archaeological Museum + exhibition)
€ 16 (SINGLE ticket including entrance to the National Archaeological Museum, exhibition, Basilica, crypts, bell tower, baptistery and domus and episcopal palace)

Free admission up to 18 years and for the categories provided by MIBAC

For groups, reservations must be made by sending an e-mail to:
museoaquileiadidattica@beniculturali.it
or by calling: +39 0431 91035

Organizzata da:
Organized by:



FONDAZIONE AQUILEIA



Polo museale
del Friuli Venezia Giulia
Museo Archeologico
Nazionale di Aquileia

KUNST
HISTORISCHES
MUSEUM
WIEN

Con il patrocinio di:
Under the auspices of:





COMUNE DI
AQUILEIA



FONDAZIONE
S.O.C.C.O.B.A.
Società per la Conservazione
della Basilica di Aquileia

Tutte le informazioni su:
All information on:

 Museo archeologico Nazionale di Aquileia
www.museoarcheologicoaquileia.beniculturali.it

 Fondazioneaquileia
www.fondazioneaquileia.it

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09.06 / 20.10.2019

Aquileia
Museo Archeologico
Nazionale



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Croce monogrammatica
in bronzo,
IV-V secolo d.C.
Monogrammatic
bronze cross,
4th - 5th century AD

