



SINEBRYCHOFF ART MUSEUM

The Lure of Italy and the Orient IPPOLITO CAFFI

1.2.–27.5.2018

- 1809** Ippolito Caffi is born on 16 October in the city of Belluno in Northern Italy's Veneto region.
- 1821** Begins drawing studies despite his father's opposition. Later studies under Antonio Tessari, who becomes a lifelong friend.
- 1825** Caffi's father dies. Caffi moves in with his cousin, the artist Pietro Paoletti, in Padua to continue his studies.
- 1827** Accepted to study at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice (Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia).
- 1830–31** First commissions in Venice; begins to gain a name as an artist. Paints theatrical sets for La Fenice opera house. Finds the atmosphere at the Art Academy suffocating and dreams of moving to Rome.
- 1832** Finally moves to Rome, an international art centre, and dedicates himself to painting vedute and landscapes, living again with Paoletti.
- 1833** Spends the summer in Naples. Moves out of Paoletti's home to a new place near the Caffè Greco, a meeting place for art circles.
- 1834** Earliest known veduta paintings, such as *Trinità dei Monti*. Paints theatrical sets.
- 1835** Caffi's textbook on perspective is published under the title *Lezioni di prospettiva pratica*. Second edition published in Naples in 1838, third edition in Venice in 1841.
- 1837–38** Painting trips to Venice, including depictions of a visit by the Austrian Emperor. First painting with a Roman Carnival theme; becomes one of Caffi's most popular works. It is on display at the Venice Art Academy.
- 1839–41** Caffi's paintings shown at exhibitions in Milan and Trieste; travels and paints commissions.
- 1842** Caffi's breakthrough. Paints frescos for cafés, including the Caffè Greco in Rome and Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua.
- 1843–44** Long-planned trip to 'the Orient' including Greece, North Africa and the Middle East.
- 1844** Caffi declines an offer to take over as professor of perspective studies at the Venice Art Academy.
- 1847** Flight over Rome in a hot-air balloon.
- 1848** Caffi's painting *Rome: The last demonstration made to Pius IX on 10 February 1848* is shown at the annual Exhibition in Venice. The painting is popular among the public, but arouses suspicions among the Austrian police due to its perceived Italian patriotism. Caffi takes

part in the Venetian uprising against the ruling Austrians. He fights with the Bellunese troops at Visco Illiria on 17 April 1848. They lose the battle; Caffi is captured and deported to Belluno. On 23 March 1848, Daniele Manin and Niccolò Tommaseo establish the Republic of San Marco. Caffi marries his fiancée, Virginia Missana.

- 1849** Caffi becomes captain of a new republican defence company in Venice. He documents battle scenes in his paintings. Venice loses its independence struggle against Austria. Due to a mix-up, Caffi ends up on a police list of criminals and is deported from the country. He is forced to leave Venice, which is still ruled by Austria, and goes into exile in Genoa.
- 1850** A court in Venice rejects Caffi's request for a hearing to consider overturning the groundless charges against him.
- 1851** Works displayed at the Great Exhibition in London.
- 1855** Three paintings shown at the Exposition Universelle in Paris. Returns to his old studio in Rome after eight years' absence.
- 1857** Suffers because of his expulsion from Venice. Receives permission from the Austrian Embassy to return to Venice for a trial.
- 1858** Trial ends on 12 August 1858 with Caffi fully cleared of all charges. Paints for Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg.
- 1859** Second Italian War of Independence ends with the Treaty of Zürich. Venice remains part of Austria.
- 1860** Political unrest in favour of Italian unification. Caffi is arrested on suspicion of treason and detained for 92 days in San Severo prison. He was released after the charges lapsed. Caffi travelled in Italy, taking part in celebrations in Naples marking the arrival of Giuseppe Garibaldi and King Victor Emmanuel II.
- 1861** The Kingdom of Italy is established. Caffi applies to relinquish his Austrian citizenship. His petition to the Austrian Emperor is approved and he is allowed to return to Venice as an Italian citizen.
- 1866** Third Italian War of Independence breaks out. Caffi is aboard the flagship of the Italian navy, the *Re d'Italia*, documenting the war in drawings and paintings. During the Battle of Lissa on 20 July 1866, the ship is rammed and sinks. More than 400 of those on board drown, including Caffi.