



october 31, 2024 / february 2, 2025

The Theatre of Virtues

1511-1574  
VASARI  
GIORGIO  
450

with the contribution of



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## The Theatre of Virtues

Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea  
Piazza San Francesco, 4

Sala Sant'Ignazio  
Via Giosué Carducci, 7

october 31, 2024  
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The exhibition presents an original journey through the work of Vasari as a painter, architect, and historian, who from 1554 to 1574 was the favored court artist of Duke Cosimo de' Medici in Tuscany during the second half of the 16th century. Eight sections display works that offer visitors multiple perspectives on Vasari's oeuvre, including many unseen pieces and surprises.

INFO AND TICKETS

[www.vasari450.it](http://www.vasari450.it)



### Giorgio Vasari, a giant of art

Presents the artist, the architect of the Uffizi and the Logge, his family, his fame as a writer, his encounter and favor with the Medici, his friendship with Michelangelo, and his loyalty to his city, where he wished to be buried.

### The young Vasari: an excellent education

Thanks to a profound humanistic education, Giorgio was able to establish important contacts early in his youth, which soon led him to travel throughout Italy.

### The apotheosis of Virtues

The birth of an allegorical language through images and fantastic visual inventions present in his paintings, which were appreciated not only by the Medici but also by some popes – particularly Pius IV and Pius V – and Cardinal Alessandro Farnese, who encouraged him to write the Vite. This section will also feature Sleep and Allegory of Oblivion from the Metropolitan Museum of NYC.

### The Academy of Design

Vasari and Cosimo founded the Academy of the Arts of Design in Florence in 1563, an evolution of the ancient guild of artists in a modern sense. Many of his colleagues, under the myth of Michelangelo, were part of it – Salviati, Cellini, Bronzino, Allori, Stradano, the Zuccari brothers – with whom Vasari shared artistic ventures, including ephemeral ones, during the golden years in the service of Cosimo de' Medici, from Palazzo Vecchio to the arrangements for Prince Francesco's wedding.

### Vasari and Sacred Art

The universal allegorical language applied to altarpieces, some of which are exhibited here for the first time, such as the Holy Family and the Crucifixion from two private collections, and the roundels from the now-lost altars of Santa Maria Novella.

### Drawing, the father of the arts

In his Vite, Vasari celebrates the importance of drawing as a cognitive practice, but also as a form of ideation and design that forms the basis of every work, whether it be in painting, sculpture, architecture, or applied arts. Many of these are displayed here,



from Turin, Vienna, Rome, the Uffizi, and the Louvre, including sketches and preparatory drawings for the Last Judgment on the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, later completed by Federico Zuccari.

### The Chimera, Vasari, and the Duke

This section narrates how the Etruscan bronze was discovered in Vasari's time in Arezzo and triumphantly brought to Florence, where it remained in Palazzo Vecchio for more than three centuries as an emblem of Cosimo's Medici power.

### Monumental paintings in churches and basilicas

In the splendid setting of Sant'Ignazio, just a five-minute walk from the Gallery, four of the most grandiose altarpieces painted by Giorgio Vasari between 1545 and 1569, rich in detailed figures and brilliant colors, such as the Immaculate Conception and the Adoration of the Magi (work from Bosco Marengo, AL)

## Tickets and Promotions



You can purchase tickets and passes for all exhibitions and shows directly on the website [vasari450.it](http://vasari450.it)

Online ticket office

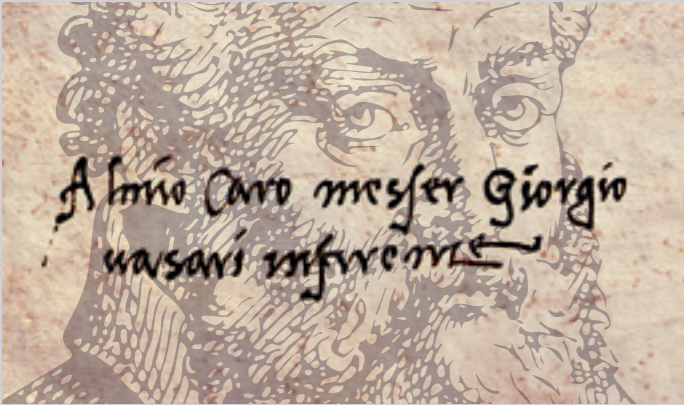


# Arezzo. The City of Vasari



**“Il disegno fu lo imitare il più bello della natura”**  
The house, the drawings, the ideas: Giorgio Vasari and the figure of the intellectual architect

**Museo di Casa Vasari**  
Via XX Settembre, 55



**Building a Self-Image:**  
Giorgio Vasari through his papers

**Archivio di Stato di Arezzo**  
Piazza del Commissario, 1



**“Si è mangiato altro che pane e messer Giorgio”**  
Critical reception and new research on the Peducci Banner

**Museo Diocesano di Arte Sacra**  
Piazza del Duomo, 1



**“Alcuna cosa fuor dell’uso comune”**  
The banquet for the wedding of Esther and Ahasuerus by Giorgio Vasari

**Museo d’Arte Medievale e Moderna**  
Via San Lorentino, 8



**“Honorata e gratiosa”**  
The Loggia of Giorgio Vasari

**Palazzo della Fraternita dei Laici**  
Piazza Grande, 1



**The Vasari ‘vasai’**  
and the Arezzo ceramic production in ancient times

**Museo Archeologico Nazionale Gaio Cilnio Mecenate**  
Via Margaritone, 10

In collaboration with  Direzione regionale  
Musei nazionali Toscana



  
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