**Discovering the four main cultural institutions in Trentino**

**SHOWCASING THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE**

**Trentino has four top-class museums with interesting and valuable collections: the Mart in Rovereto, the Muse and the Castello del Buonconsiglio in Trento and the Museum of Customs and** Traditions **of the** People **of** Trentino **in San Michele all’Adige. All four are architectural gems from different periods, each one a mirror of its time**

Visiting the four major museums in Trentino can turn into a fascinating journey back to the past, through our contemporary world or into the future. The Mart (Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art) and Muse (Science Museum) are housed in cutting-edge sustainable glass and steel buildings, showcasing continuously evolving art movements and scientific knowledge. Castello del Buonconsiglio is a place where visitors can admire art collections and works displayed in beautifully decorated rooms, where the Prince Bishops of Trento once received the representatives of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Pope. Visitors climb pink marble staircases and cross loggias and courtyards where once used to walk the likes of Cardinal Bernardo Clesio, the enlightened lord of Trento during the Renaissance. Finally, at the Museum of Customs and Traditions of the People of Trentino visitors can admire the conversion of an ancient Augustinian convent that hosted offsprings of the Tyrolese nobility.

**MART**

Rovereto’s huge Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, designed by architect Mario Botta, embraces its own round square and its steel and glass dome rises above the roofs of Rovereto’s 18th century buildings. The town’s main street – Corso Bettini – on which the museum stands, appears today more or less as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and, a decade later, Johann Wolfgang Goethe must have seen it, when they arrived in Rovereto from the imperial street with its sequence of impressive mansions: Casa Piomarta, Casa Alberti and Palazzo dell'Annona. Rovereto, cradle of the Futurist movement in art, is still today an important centre for art and modernity. The buildings that face onto the museum’s square, called “piazza del Mart”, clad with yellow Vicenza stone and various storeys tall, also house important cultural facilities, such as the archive of the 20th century, a library and an auditorium. The exhibition spaces include a venue for touring exhibitions on the first floor, the permanent collection of 20th century art and large exhibitions on the second floor. Fortunato Depero’s house (Casa d'Arte Futurista Depero) in Rovereto and the Municipal Art Gallery (Galleria Civica) of Trento are also part of Mart. Info: [www.mart.trento.it](http://www.mart.trento.it)

**What’s on**

**“From Divisionism to Futurism”**

25 June – 9 October

Divisionism played a key role in the renewal of Italian art at the turn of the 20th century, and was then ideally continued by the avant-garde Futurist movement. The exhibition displays a selection of artworks from the Mart collection, as well as from public and private loans, and illustrates the origins and evolution of the Divisionist movement, comparing it with Futurism: this dialogue between two generations of artists defines the birth of modern painting in Italy. Divisionism established itself as a major art movement at the Brera Triennale in 1891, with the first “public” exhibition of works by a group of young painters: Segantini, Pellizza da Volpedo, Morbelli, Longoni. Futurism, an avant-garde movement that developed out of the revolutionary forcefulness of this new poetic and its technical approach, appeared on the Italian art scene at the beginning of the 20th century, spearheaded by Boccioni, Balla, Carrà, Russolo and Severini. This touring exhibition is co-produced by the Mapfre Foundation of Madrid, where it will be on view until 5 June.

**MUSE**

Trento’s Science Museum is located in the heart of the Alps, the form and identity of which are mirrored in this contemporary building by architect Renzo Piano. The Museum is renowned for its research and its focus on the environment and science according to an innovative, creative and experimental approach. The Italian starchitect’s concept is inspired by the museum’s cultural project, based on an interpretation of nature starting from the mountain landscape, and using the eyes, instruments and questions of scientific research, grasping the challenges posed by the contemporary world and encouraging curiosity and the pleasure of knowledge to add value to sustainability and innovation. Piano has translated all this into a succession of spaces and volumes, solids and voids, lying on a large pool of water capable of multiplying the effects and vibrations of the light and shadows. The museum relies on renewable energy sources and is highly energy efficient. The Muse is also at the heart of a widespread network of other local museums, such as the Gianni Caproni Aeronautical Museum, the Geological Museum of the Dolomites in Predazzo, the Lake Ledro Pile Dwelling Museum, the Lake Tovel Limnological Centre, the Astronomical Observatory “Terrazza delle stelle” and the Alpine Botanical Garden on Monte Bondone.Info: [www.muse.it](http://www.muse.it)

**What’s on**

**“Extinctions”**

July 2016 – January 2017

The Trento Science Museum will host this exhibition on the issue of large-scale extinctions in the past, from the paleontological dimension to the so-called “6th mass extinction” primarily caused by mankind. Hence, Homo sapiens becomes the key protagonist, in both good and bad, conscious of himself and creative, but also invasive and “unsustainable”. Mankind has led to the extinction of large animal groups, but of other human beings as well. The exhibition displays numerous examples of extinct or seriously threatened vertebrates from Italian collections, with thematic focus on both charismatic species and less known stories from Italian collections. The second part of the project will open in October and consists of an exhibition-and-debate on the other side of extinction, a thought-provoking reflection on the extremes of knowledge, a sort of “How to avoid extinction in 10 moves”, which can serve as a handbook on the possible approach to a sustainable future, from nature to societies

**CASTELLO DEL BUONCONSIGLIO**

Art history is encapsulated in this monumental complex, the residence and symbol of power of the Prince Bishops of Trento, who were appointed directly by the Holy Roman Emperor. From the impressive cylindrical keep, which forms the most ancient core of Castelvecchio, together with the Venetian-Gothic loggia overlooking the city, to the Renaissance Magno Palazzo and the Baroque Giunta Albertiana extension. A succession of different architectural styles, added on through the centuries, without destroying what had come before and producing a very powerful theatrical effect. Inside the Magno Palazzo, the rooms have been painted by masters of the Italian Renaissance: Alessio Longhi, Marcello Fogolino, Girolamo Romanino, Dosso and Battista Dossi. In the southernmost part of the castle, called Torre dell'Aquila (the Eagle’s Tower), visitors can admire the marvellous “Cycle of the Months” fresco, a masterpiece of international Gothic wall painting. The museum houses an extensive permanent collection of art and archaeology, with artworks spanning a very long period of time, from Prehistory to the first half of the 19th century, documenting the history and art of Trento and its region, and hosts several touring exhibitions each year. Since 1992, the Castello del Buonconsiglio is at the heart of a network of museums, which includes four other Trentino castles: Beseno, Caldes, Stenico and Thun. Info: [www.buonconsiglio.it](http://www.buonconsiglio.it)

**What’s on**

**“The Times of History, the Times of Art: Cesare Battisti between Vienna and Rome”**

12 July 2016 – 29 January 2017

On 12 July 1916, Cesare Battisti died on the gallows erected in the moat of Castello del Buonconsiglio, where he had been held prisoner after his capture in one of the cells built in the garden Loggia, and where he was put on trial by a military court that held its hearings in the ancient “Stua de la famea” of the Prince Bishops’s residence. This event, which produced contrasting sentiments in Italy and abroad, was exploited by the opposing factions and became a powerful propaganda tool, which didn’t end with World War I, but continued as one of the mainstays of Italian patriotism. To mark the first centenary of these tragic events, as part of the activities remembering the Great War, the exhibition shines the spotlight on Battisti as historian, politician, geographer, author and intellectual, through documents, photographs, letters, paintings, drawings and sculptures that explore his life and thought. The principal aim of the exhibition is to bring this important human and cultural legacy to a broader audience, considering the great role Battisti played in the recent history of Trentino, which is why this complex and modern figure deserves to be better known by the younger generations too.

**MUSEUM OF CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF TRENTINO**

With its five floors, 43 rooms and over 12,000 exhibits, the ethnographic Museum of San Michele all’Adige is the most important in Italy, and one of the most admired in the Alpine region and throughout Europe. Visitors can follow a suggestive scenic itinerary designed by Giuseppe Šebesta, which embraces every aspect of the traditional culture of the Trentino mountains – from agriculture to handicraft, from folklore to music – on a real journey into the ancient heart of the region. The display is arranged inside the 13th century Augustinian prevostry erected by friars from the Abbey of Novacella near Brixen. The convent features an unusual and characteristic triangular cloister and a beautiful Baroque church. Entirely dedicated to the Trentino folk traditions, the permanent collection of the Museum celebrates the work of the rural communities, the ingenious and versatile technologies shared by many trades in the rural world, such as millers, blacksmiths, mountain farmers, mountain livestock breeders, weavers, woodsmen, sawyers, cartwrights. The rooms present the tools, technology and processes by means of which raw materials were transformed into manufactured goods. A world and an economy that have long since disappeared, or have radically changed, but which Šebesta, the museum’s founder, has patiently brought together and reconstructed in these rooms, which also house windmills, drop hammers, Venetian sawmills, looms and lathes, complete with their operating mechanisms. The last rooms of the museum are dedicated to the traditions and immaterial culture of the Trentino valleys, with sections on traditional costumes, rites and festivals, faith and devotion, Alpine carnivals, music bands and hunting. Info: [www.museosanmichele.it](http://www.museosanmichele.it).

(m.c.)

Trento, April 2016