

PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF THE STATE OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

CARPACCIO, BELLINI, AND THE EARLY RENAISSANCE IN VENICE

15th of November 2024 – 2nd of March 2025
at Staatsgalerie Stuttgart

From 15 November 2024 to 2 March 2025, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart will present the exhibition »Carpaccio, Bellini and the Early Renaissance in Venice«. For the first time in Germany, the spotlight will be on Vittore Carpaccio, one of the most successful painters active in the Republic of Venice around 1500.

Approximately 55 paintings and works on paper from the museum's own collection, alongside prestigious international loans, will illuminate Carpaccio's unique role as a chronicler of Venetian life.

Vittore Carpaccio (c. 1460/65–1525/26) was one of the most significant painters of the Venetian Early Renaissance. His vivid and detailed narrative compositions are set against the picturesque backdrop of Venice and the landscapes of the eastern Mediterranean. Around 1500, Carpaccio was one of the most sought-after painters, competing more famous contemporaries such as Giovanni Bellini (c. 1435–1516). Carpaccio drew inspiration from Venice's rich visual culture, which included the works of Italian and Northern European masters, as well as printed books and Islamic art forms like textiles and ceramics. With a keen sense of colour, materials, and textures, combined with a sharp eye for detail and a humorous perspective, Carpaccio developed an original style that earned him wide popularity.

At the heart of the exhibition are two major works by Carpaccio from the Staatsgalerie's collection, which have undergone extensive restoration. The monumental altarpiece »Saint Thomas Aquinas with Saints Mark and Louis of Toulouse« (1507) demonstrates how Carpaccio adopted and animated the altar compositions of his teacher, Bellini. The »Martyrdom of Saint Stephen« (1520), part of a cycle created for the Scuola di Santo Stefano in Venice, is representative of Carpaccio's extensive work for the city's religious confraternities, or *scuole*. In these large-scale paintings, Carpaccio envisioned an imaginary world that simultaneously evokes contemporary Venice. His inclusion of picturesque details, references to well-known artworks and architecture, and his realistic, everyday figures, showcase the artist's creative mastery.

Some of Carpaccio's paintings stand out for their unconventional focus on a female audience, a rare consideration among artists of his time. A series of devotional images reflect Carpaccio's thoughtful engagement with the daily lives and artistic tastes of Venetian women. His portraiture, notable for its immediacy and realism, is highlighted in the exhibition alongside outstanding examples from his contemporaries.

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Opening hours
10.00 AM – 5.00 PM
Thursdays until 8.00 PM
Closed on Mondays

Special opening hours
With prior booking and ticket:
Tue-Sun 9.00-10.00 AM and
5.00-7.00 PM

Stuttgart, 18 October 2024



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The exhibition will feature around 55 paintings and works on paper, including significant loans from Venice, Florence, Budapest, and Washington. Among the artists presented are Vittore Carpaccio, Giovanni Bellini, Gentile Bellini, Lorenzo Lotto, Albrecht Dürer, Hans Burgkmair, Giovanni Mansueti, and Vincenzo Catena. Ai Weiwei's contemporary work, »Untitled (St. George Slaying a Dragon)« (2022), will also be on display.

In partnership with SWR Kultur, Rory McCleery and The Marian Consort have created a recording that brings to life the music of Venice circa 1500. The soundtrack, available on Linn Records and various streaming platforms, will be featured in excerpts on the media guide accompanying the exhibition, which will also be accessible online.

Curator: Dr. Annette Hojer
Co-Curator: Dr. Christine Follmann
Curatorial Assistants: Karin Eisenkrein, Dr. Lea Gerhardt, Esther Löffelbein

A fully illustrated catalogue will be published in November 2024 by Hirmer Verlag, 288 pages. Museum edition: €34.90 (limited availability).
Editors: Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Annette Hojer with Christine Follmann

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The press release and images are available for download in the press section at staatsgalerie.de/de/presse