

Portraits of Ladies
Textile, fashion and painting between the Nineteenth and Twentieth century

Exhibition and lectures
curated by Margherita Rosina and Francina Chiara
1 April – 24 June 2011

Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Villa Sucota, Via Cernobbio 19 Como



LC.510-55998
Lyon, Chavent Père et Fils
Printed brocaded chiffon
Como, Museo Studio del Tessuto

From 1st April to 24th June, the Museo Studio del Tessuto of Fondazione Antonio Ratti – on the occasion of the exhibition *Boldini e la Belle Epoque* organized at Villa Olmo by the City of Como - dedicates an exhibition and a cycle of lectures to those women who, with their elegance and extravagance, enlivened the decades between the Nineteenth and Twentieth century.

The **exhibition** *Portraits of Ladies – Textile, fashion and painting between the nineteenth and twentieth century* will display textiles, clothes and accessories from MuST, Museo Didattico della Seta, and from Italian private collections.

A cycle of parallel **lectures** will focus on the biographies of the Ladies who signed the taste of their time. Their portraits will be shown, both paintings and photographs, thus allowing a consideration on the change of portrayal in that period. Fascinating ladies will be discovered: from the slender silhouettes of elegant unknown women painted by Tissot; the portraits of the Italian bourgeoisie by Lega, De Nittis, Morelli; the Parisian Mme Greffulhe, immortalized by Proust in his *Recherche* as the Duchess of Guermantes; to the Viennese Emilie Flöge, Klimt's muse and companion.

Boldini's brush has given us extraordinary images of equally extraordinary ladies: the Marquise Luisa Casati Stampa, D'Annunzio's "nomad", and dame Franca Florio – one of the most elegant Italian women of the early Twentieth century – recall the fast brushstroke of the painter and his ability to convey the softness, lightness and brightness of the chiffon, satin and tulle in which his dames were draped.

These meetings are focused in the live observation of the fashion textiles depicted in the portraits: woven and printed silks, ribbons, and a rich selection of embroidered tulle, lace, veils, trimmings, and the so-called *agrément*, cited by the French magazines. These materials, from the MuST archives – rich in pieces from that epoch – and from private collections, characterize the content of sample books of great interest for fashion and textile historians, as well as for contemporary creatives looking for unusual inspirations.

Lectures

19 April 2011 – 6 pm

The discreet charm of the bourgeoisie: textiles and fashion in the late Nineteenth century Italian portraiture

19 May 2011 – 6 pm

From Tissot to Klimt: fashion portraits from the Parisian aristocracy to the Wiener Werkstätte

16 June 2011 – 6 pm

Boldini's *femmes fatales*: the Marquise Casati and Lady Franca Florio

23 June 2011 – 6 pm

Jean Boldini peintre de la femme: the collaboration with the Parisian magazine "Les Modes"

Info:

Exhibition and lectures
Portraits of Ladies – Textile, fashion and painting between the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries
Date: 1 April – 24 June 2011
Opening times: Monday to Friday from 10 to 17
Where: Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Villa Sucota, via Cernobbio 19, Como
t. +39031 233224/227
Press Office
Teresa Saibene t. +39031 233211
ufficiostampa@fondazioneratti.org
www.fondazioneratti.org

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Free entry – subject to availability of seats.