

Leonardo da Vinci Sulle tracce della Battaglia di Anghiari

23 February 2019 - 12 January 2020
Museo di Palazzo Vecchio

To mark the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death, the Museo di Palazzo Vecchio is celebrating the unfinished masterpiece that is the *Battle of Anghiari* with an itinerary retracing its history



Admission

The itinerary is included in the standard price of admission to the Museo di Palazzo Vecchio

Opening time

Hall of the Five Hundred
Apartments of Eleonora
From October to March

Every day except for Thursday: 9 a.m - 7 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

From April to September

Every day except for Thursday: 9 a.m - 11 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mezzanine

(architectural barriers preventing access to the mezzanine floor)

From January to December

Every day except for Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Ticket Office closes one hour before museum closing time

Tracking Down the *Battle of Anghiari*

The *Battle of Anghiari* is Leonardo da Vinci's best-known unfinished work. Praised by his contemporaries and copied by an entire generation of artists, it was intended to decorate one of the walls in the great hall of Palazzo Vecchio, which hosted the meetings of the Great Council of the Florentine Republic at the time and which is known today as the Salone dei Cinquecento. Leonardo was commissioned to paint the work by the Florentine Signoria under the leadership of Gonfaloniere Pier Soderini in 1503. For many months he mulled over the depiction of the battle, won by the Florentines against the Milanese in 1440, producing several drawings and one or more preparatory cartoons. In the meantime, the Signoria had also commissioned Michelangelo Buonarroti to paint a second battle, in which the Florentines vanquished the Pisans at Cascina in 1364, on another wall of the same room. Leonardo finally began to paint the scene in the *Battle of Anghiari* known as the *Struggle for the Standard* on the wall of the room, but he soon broke off his work because the paint would not dry due to a fault in the experimental technique he was using. He threw in the towel and moved to Milan in the service of Charles d'Amboise, while the remains of his unfinished painting were lost during subsequent renovation work.

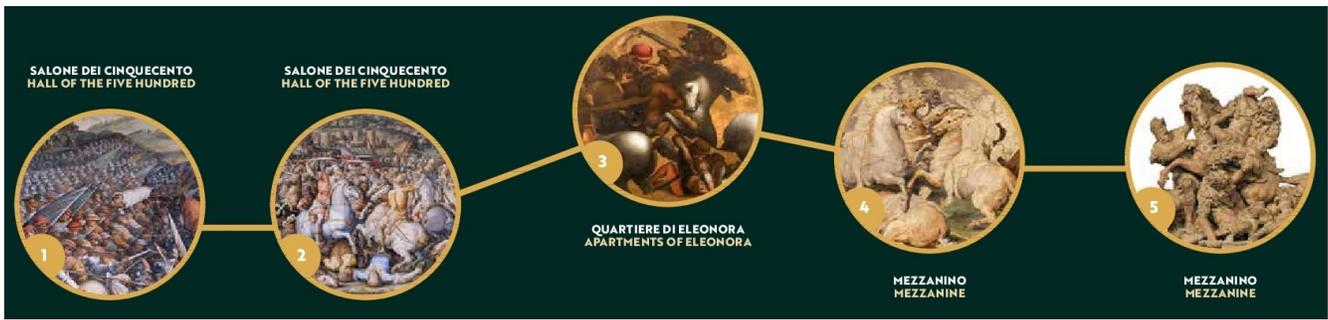
Old replicas of the work, based either on Leonardo's preparatory cartoon or on the fragmentary remains of his painting, and other testimonials that have handed the memory of it down to us, between fact and legend, have invariably aroused a great deal of interest on account of the extraordinarily expressive power contained in the new and highly original manner of portraying a battle that Leonardo devised in his unfinished masterpiece.

Itinerary

To mark the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death, the Museo di Palazzo Vecchio is celebrating the unfinished masterpiece that is the *Battle of Anghiari* with an itinerary retracing its history through the various testimonials it houses, accompanying them for the occasion with special tools exploring the theme in greater depth.

The itinerary kicks off in the Salone dei Cinquecento area in which searches have been conducted in recent years to discover whether there are still any residual traces of Leonardo's painting, beneath Vasari's fresco of the *Battle of Marciano*. A video in the hall tells the story of the *Battle of Anghiari* with images and 3D models showing what the hall looked like in Leonardo's day and its subsequent transformation. The video has been specially produced for the occasion on the basis of the most recent scholarship, striving for stringent historical authenticity.

We then move over to the opposite wall to discover the memories of Leonardo's work concealed in Vasari's fresco depicting the *Rout of the Pisans at Torre San Vincenzo*. The itinerary continues on the floor above, where the Apartments of Eleonora of Toledo host an old replica of the *Battle of Anghiari* that is one of the closest copies to the original. And finally, our journey winds up on the Mezzanine floor where the Loeser Bequest has a rare sketch on a tile showing the central scene of the *Rout of the Pisans at Torre San Vincenzo* and renowned terracotta *Battle Scenes* from the Rustici workshop testifying to the exceptional impact of Leonardo's unfinished work on his contemporaries.



Salone dei Cinquecento

The Battle of Marciano

Giorgio Vasari and assistants

Salone dei Cinquecento

The Rout of the Pisans at Torre San Vincenzo

Giorgio Vasari and assistants

Apartments of Eleonora of Toledo / Room of Esther

Copy of the *Battle of Anghiari*

Anonymous artist

Mezzanine / Loeser Bequest

Sketch for *The Rout of the Pisans at Torre San Vincenzo*

Giovan Battista Naldini

Mezzanine / Loeser Bequest

Battle Scenes

Workshop of Giovanfrancesco Rustici