



Aboca



# ARTETO

Family



Orto  
Botanico  
di Brera



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI MILANO



Brera

# Why project

A R T E O



Nature has always been a favourite source of inspiration for artists, and they have interpreted it according to their own culture and perception. That's why **Aboca** decided to bring "Arte" (Art) into the "Orto" (Garden), proposing a visit to an important art gallery like the **Pinacoteca di Brera**, paying particular attention to the world of plants represented in the paintings, and then finding the same plants within the **Orto Botanico di Brera**.

An artistic-botanical tour designed for big and small alike, to discover **art** and **nature** together.

**My name is** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's date is** \_\_\_\_\_

**I'm here with** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# How to read the sheets

## Hi there explorers!

This booklet will help you discover the connections between the works of art in the **Pinacoteca** and the medicinal plants grown in the **Botanical Garden of Brera**. The booklet contains 11 sheets on 11 works of art.

## How do you find the works of art?

At the top right of each sheet there is a room number, and on the back of the cover page you'll find a map of the Pinacoteca... this is your first adventure! Once you have arrived in the room indicated, the hunt for the work of art begins!

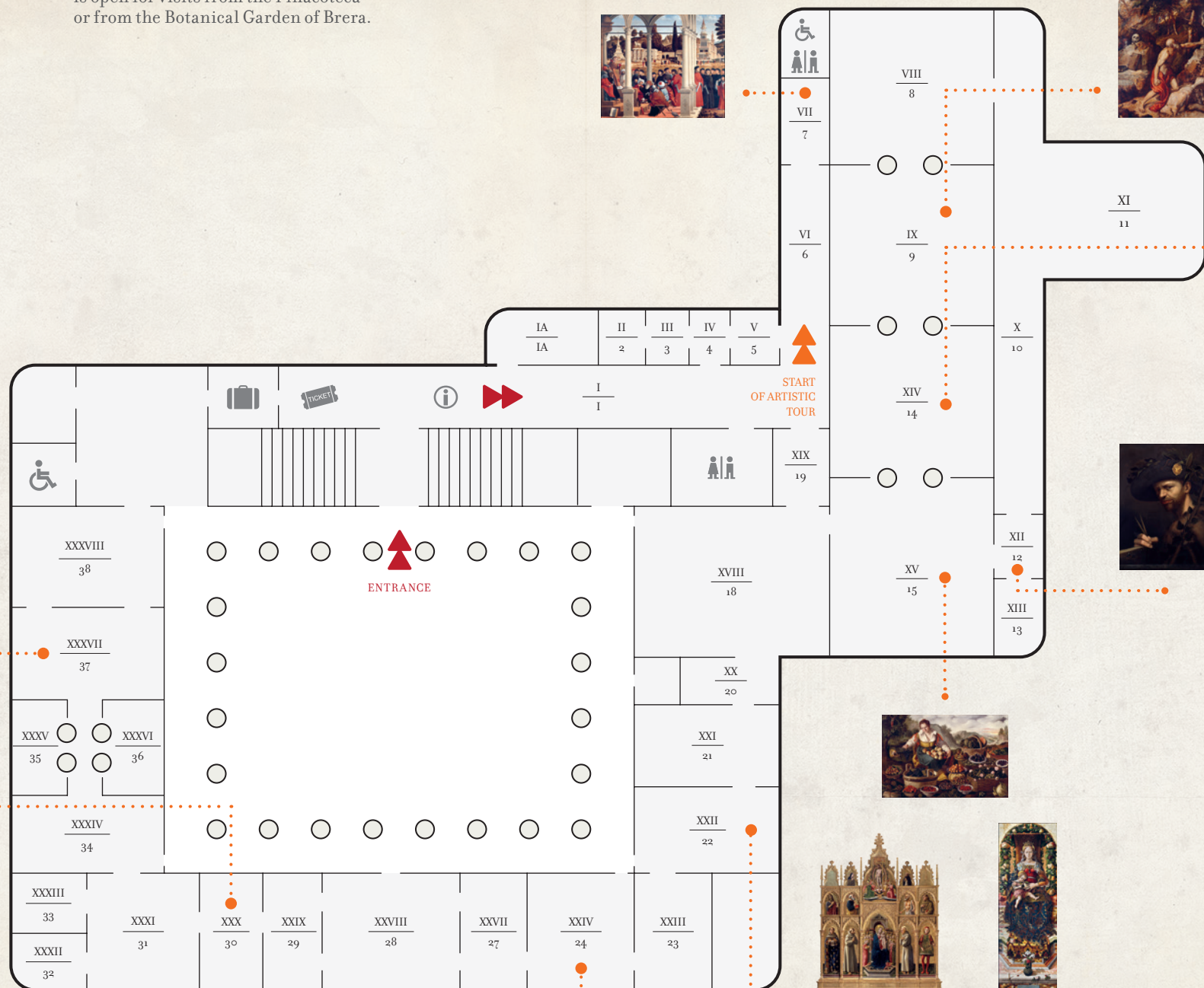
On each sheet, a detail of the chosen work of art has been put into a circle written **ZOOM ART**. Look out for the detail, spot it and you will have found the work of art. **Well done!**

Arm yourselves with a pencil and write down on the sheet the title of the work, the name of the author and the year in which it was painted. Now sit yourselves comfortably in front of the work and read the information on the sheet, have a good look at the painting and... turn the page! Here, Frizzo asks you to **PLAY WITH ME**, a series of activities including games of observation, drawings and much, much more.

## Have fun!

**PERHAPS NOT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT...** The Botanical Garden of Brera is actually a real and officially recognised MUSEUM, just like the Pinacoteca of Brera. The works that it exhibits are the PLANTS, some of which are very special!

The "ArteOrto" artistic-botanical tour is open for visits from the Pinacoteca or from the Botanical Garden of Brera.



Oleander  
*Nerium oleander* L.



Pear  
*Pyrus communis* L.



Borage  
*Borago officinalis* L.



Nasturtium  
*Nasturtium*



Bay  
*Laurus nobilis* L.



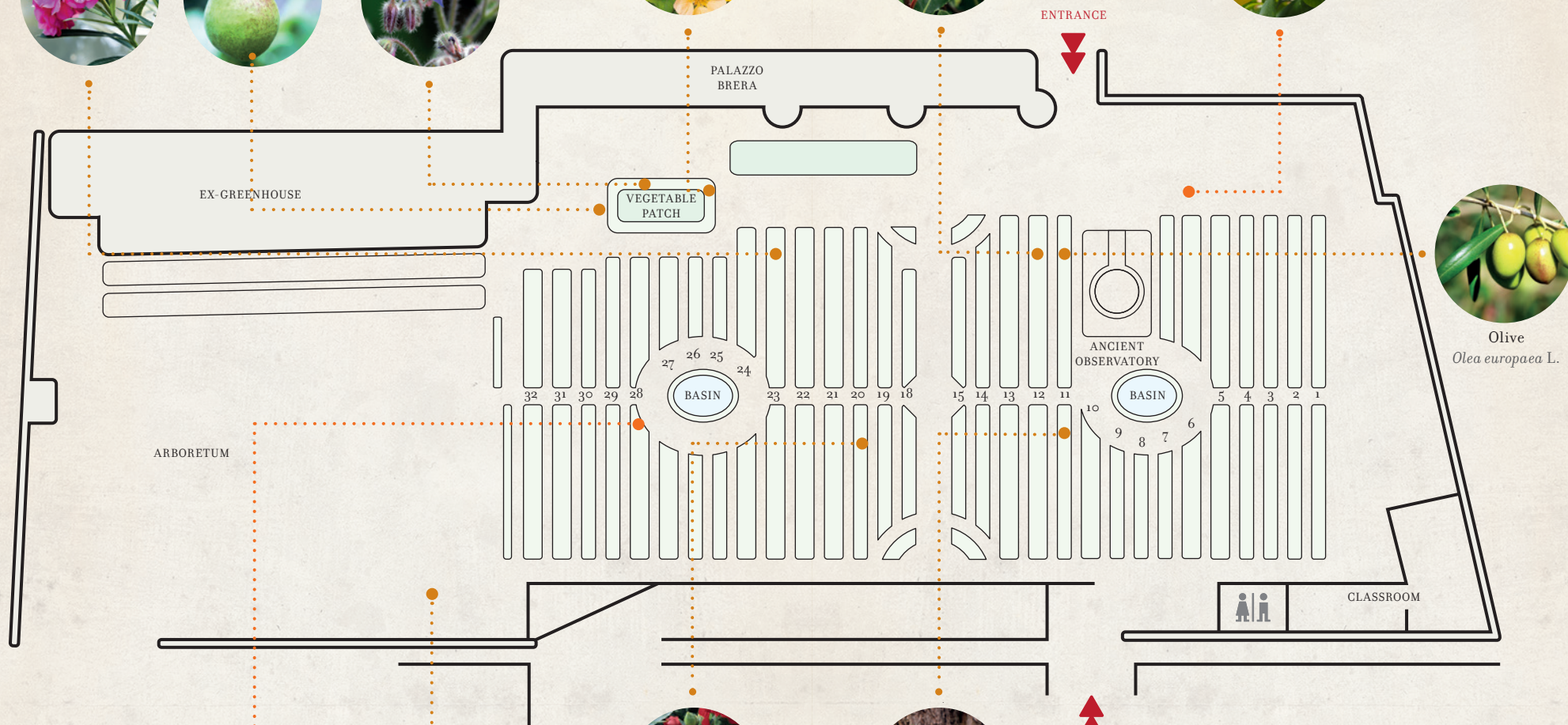
Lemon  
*Citrus limon* L.



Orto  
Botanico  
di Brera



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



Olive  
*Olea europaea* L.



Tobacco  
*Nicotiana tabacum* L.



Hazel  
*Corylus avellana* L.



Carnation  
*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.



Ivy  
*Hedera helix* L.



ENTRANCE

The "ArteOrto" artistic-botanical tour is open for visits from the Botanical Garden of Brera or from the Pinacoteca.

# Rules of the Garden and the Pinacoteca

Dear explorers, you are free to adventure between the Pinacoteca and the Botanical Garden, but please respect a few rules:

● Slow down, you observe things better walking than running

● Lower your voices: you are busy on an exciting hunt, but there are also people here who like to relax among the works of art and the garden!

● Please leave the place behind with a sense of wonder... not with paper and litter. Both the Garden and the Pinacoteca have bins for those!

● The works of art don't like to be touched, and the room assistants in the Pinacoteca will be watching carefully to make sure this doesn't happen

● The plants don't like to be trampled, picked or mistreated. But you're very welcome to look at them up close, smell them and touch them gently

● You can take as many photos as you want in the Garden and the Pinacoteca. In the latter case, be careful to not use the flash as you could damage the work of art

● In the Garden, shortcuts through flowerbeds are not allowed... and anyway, it's wonderful to walk along the corridors of green, it's like going through a maze

● We know, it would be lovely to have a picnic in front of a work of art, right? Unfortunately it's not possible, you can't eat in the Pinacoteca, it's a real shame!

● **And finally...** it is absolutely forbidden to not look at, to skim over, or to not tell your friends about the project **ARTEORTO FAMILY!**

**AND REMEMBER...** The plants don't flower all year round, but they are beautiful all the same and worth observing in every season!



ZOOM  
ART  
Find the plant

HALL VII

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** The main character in the work is **Saint Stephen**, who is to your left, and he is busy discussing something with men in oriental robes: they are the doctors of the Sanhedrin, that is, those who issued laws and administered justice in Jerusalem.

In the background, the painter has created a fantasy scene with buildings both from the imagination and inspired by reality. At the bottom, a borage plant is painted, whose name derives from the Latin borra, a rough woollen fabric, which is echoed here in the work of the standing gentlemen trading wool, and a **woodcock**, a long-billed bird that represents wisdom, which contrasts with the **guinea fowl**, a symbol of false pride.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The **borage** is a plant with blue-purple flowers that appear only briefly. Since ancient times, it was thought to possess the power to relieve melancholy and revive the spirit. The plant's juice is an antidote against all poisons and **venomous animal** bites.

A useful oil can be extracted from its seeds to cure skin diseases and prevent wrinkles. Its blue flowers can be used to garnish salads and fruit salads and the leaves are delicious eaten raw. It is used today for its purifying, anti-inflammatory, expectorant, diuretic and diaphoretic (that is, perspiration-activating) effects.



Change the face of the character!

When artists had to draw faces, they mostly used portraits of real people! They inserted the **faces of their friends**, acquaintances, important people and often themselves in their paintings. Who are you going to put into your picture? Have fun changing the detail of Carpaccio's painting, drawing the face of a member of your family or one of your acquaintances!



HALL IX

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** The character in the centre is Saint Jerome. In this painting you can easily recognise him from his **red cloak**. Jerome, often depicted in cardinal vestments, wanted to live like a hermit and withdrew to the desert. There, he met a **lion** that had a thorn stuck in its paw. Jerome took pity on it and, fearlessly pulled out the thorn. From that day on, the lion followed him docilely, becoming one of his attributes, or rather one of the symbols that help us to recognise him. The **skull**, the **books** and the **stone** in his hand are also objects that are there to allow us to recognise this saint.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The name *Hedera* derives from the Greek word *helissein*, "to twist up", and this plant does indeed twist and turn to great heights, clinging to rocks and trees. That is why it represents love and fidelity. However, in ancient Greece it was the symbol of Dionysus, the god of wine, who was represented with his head circled in a crown of **ivy**.

Among the Greeks and later the Romans, there was a widespread belief that wreathing ones head with a crown of ivy prevented the effects of excessive wine-drinking. Currently in medicine, ivy leaves are used in the treatment of bronchial secretions. It is very important to remember that the leaves and berries, if swallowed, are **toxic** to humans.



Discover  
the secret  
diary!

Transform yourselves  
into **palaeographers**  
(researchers of ancient documents)  
and imagine you find a page  
of the diary of Saint Jerome  
in the desert.  
Unfortunately, the weather  
has ruined the paper  
of this page.  
Try to fill in the missing spaces  
with the help of the picture!

My name is ..... and I am a hermit.

Wearry of living in luxury, I withdrew to an isolated place where I could pray, where  
there are dry trees and ....., a climbing plant that is very resilient, just  
like me. A docile ..... often follows me, who is ..... at the  
moment. I always take some ..... with me, which I have placed on  
the rocks.

I am so busy praying that a thick, white ..... has grown on my face, while on  
my head I no longer have any .....; in fact I am bald.

I threw away all of my clothes and cover myself with a ..... coloured  
.....

In order to never forget that I will die sooner or later, I carry a ..... with me.



HALL XIV

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** The painting depicts the **Resurrection**. Jesus  
is near two saints, Jerome and John the Baptist, who are both standing up.  
Down below, there are two people kneeling: they are Octavian Vimercati  
and his wife, the **"clients"** of the work, the people who have requested  
the painting from the artist and have paid him for painting it. The man is  
represented in the official dress of a "noble knight", with a richly brocaded  
over garment, the "big robe". His name and the date of the work are written  
on a scroll next to him. Behind Jesus, an **olive**, tree is depicted, a symbol of  
peace, and an animal that also symbolises peace: the **dove**.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** In ancient times, the **oil**  
extracted from **olives** was not thought of as an indispensable  
kitchen ingredient but as a fuel, that is, as an oil to be burned  
to keep the oil lamps lit. From the High Middle Ages, every  
small monastery owned a grove of olive trees or received in  
patrimony "Pro Luminaria oil", that is, oil to be used to keep a  
**lamp** in front of an image of a saint, altar or relic lit. In addition, oil  
was used mainly in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and religious sectors.  
Today, oil deriving from the pressing of olives is used in the kitchen, but also  
for skin care; in fact, olive oil is soothing and has an emollient effect, perfect  
for treating cracked skin.



Read  
the letter  
from  
the "client"

When a **"client"** asked an artist to produce a painting, he usually wrote a letter in which he explained in detail what he would like the artist to depict in the work.

What would the Vimercati family have written to commission this painting by Giovanni Cariani? Let's try to imagine it together: look at the work and complete the commissioning letter below.

Dear Mr Cariani, in the painting you are about to paint I would like you to depict a victorious Christ in the centre: his gaze will have to be .....

In his left hand he should be holding up a ....., coloured standard, the symbol of the resurrection. Two saints should be painted at his side; to his left will be St. John the Baptist, holding a stick and a cartouche, pointing downwards with his other hand to a ....., to bring to mind the phrase "Behold, the Lamb of God" ("Ecce Agnus Dei") with which he baptised Jesus. At the bottom, there should be the image of us, the clients, husband and wife, our clothes must be painted as follows: ..... In the background, an olive tree should be placed, which is a symbol of ....., with one ..... on a branch. In the lower part of the painting, in the middle, there will be, in miniature, a ....., from which Christ has risen.



Zoom  
Art  
Find the plant

HALL XV

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** This is a coloured oil on canvas painting by the painter Vincenzo Campi. The friars of San Sigismondo of Cremona bought this work for the convent refectory in 1623 from the heirs of the artist, a man who had become famous because he knew how to paint in a very realistic way.

The main character is a **fruit seller** at the market, who is selling fruit and vegetables. In the background, to the left, there is a boy climbing on the branches of a tree to gather the fruit, while a woman gathers those that have fallen to the floor.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The **hazel** has always been considered a **magical**, tree, so much so that its wood is used to make the forked wands used by wizards, fairies, fortune tellers and diviners to find hidden **treasure**, precious metals and underground water.

A hazel branch also protects from **lightning**, from **scorpions** and from snakes and the bites of poisonous animals in general. Hazelnuts were found in many medicinal preparations and beauty treatments, for baldness, joint pain, and persistent coughs. An edible oil with emollient properties is obtained from the seeds.



Play  
with me

Circle  
the objects  
that are  
not in the  
painting



*"Roll up ladies and gentlemen, roll up and buy my delicious fruit!*

*Buy my peaches, cherries and sweet watermelons!*

*Buy these tender artichokes, tasty pears, potatoes, pumpkins e blackberries!*

*And these apricots? Does nobody fancy them?*

*Juicy white e black grapes! Ripe figs to make jam!*

*Do you want some porcini mushrooms picked this morning?*

*Hazelnuts to give you thick, shiny hair?*

*Who wants to make a tasty soup with cabbage, beans e asparagus?*

*Come on and roll up ladies and gents! Come and buy!"*

HALL XII



Zoom  
Art  
Find the plant

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** A self-portrait is a work in which the artist depicts himself. In 1568, the year in which this painting was painted, the artist was appointed abbot of the Facchini Academy in the Blenio Valley, an association of artisans and artists who were inspired by Dionysus, god of wine, and who spoke an incomprehensible dialect, calling themselves different names from their own; Lomazzo actually called himself **"Compà Zavargna"**. Here the artist is portrayed with the thyrsus, the stick of Dionysus, covered in ivy. In the picture there are other symbols, including the emblem on the hat, the seal of the Academy and the **laurel** wreath woven from **vines**, symbols of glory and of happiness together.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** Myth says that the **laurel** plant is the nymph Daphne who, to escape the love of Apollo, asks her mother, Creusa, to help her, and so she transforms her into a plant. Apollo won't be resigned to his loss and turns her into an evergreen plant, consecrated to him: from that moment on it is used as a symbol of **divine wisdom** and its branches adorn the heads of the wise and **valiant**.

The decoction of bay leaves is useful against digestive disorders and flu diseases, while the essential oil that is obtained by distilling leaves and twigs is used for joint pain.



Observe  
all the  
details  
carefully

Giovan Paolo Lomazzo has decided  
to write a ... **quiz!**  
To answer his questions, just observe  
his self-portrait and pay attention  
to his words!

*In my right hand I have the tools  
of my trade. What are they?  
Draw them below.*

*Which of my names appears  
written in the portrait?  
Careful!  
It's written in a very strange  
language!*

*Vine leaves sprout  
from my hat.  
Can you tell me the fruit  
of the vine?*



HALL XXII

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** This painting was part of a polyptych, a work  
composed of several panels held together by a precious frame. Some elements  
of this polyptych and the frame have now been lost or destroyed.  
In this painting the painter has added many details, each one of them telling  
us a story. The main protagonists are those at the centre. You can easily  
recognize the **Madonna** and **Child**.

The Madonna is seated on a throne and is dressed in a rich damask dress, a  
precious fabric with stylised or floral designs.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The wood of the **pear**, tree,  
excellent for making musical instruments, was considered  
useful in signalling the presence of **ghosts**, because it was  
believed to creak when they passed! It was also an excellent  
remedy against mushroom poisoning and was reduced to ash  
and drunk to counteract the **poison**. The pear was much-loved especially by  
nobles who could taste the many varieties. Just think that many years ago  
they were on-the-go snack fruits: cooked, covered in caramel and pierced  
onto skewers, they were sold on the street by cooked pear sellers.



Connect  
the description  
to the detail  
present in the  
work by  
a line

**Pear** The pear is a very sweet fruit and for this reason is connected with something positive, with good health. In general, it is associated with the gentleness of Mary and recalls motherhood.

**Candle** The candle is positioned on the step, as an offering at the feet of the Virgin. According to some, it represents the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**Pomegranate** The reason for the pomegranate was that it was an oft-used decoration in Renaissance fabrics. The pomegranate is a symbol of fertility and wealth because it contains red beans and juices.

**Cartouche** Carlo Crivelli was very proud to be a painter and his pride often manifested itself in him leaving his signature. In this work he writes his name on an understated cartouche: the writing is in Latin and, translated, it says: "Carlo Crivelli, Venetian, appointed knight, he painted".



HALL XXII

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** This polyptych was painted by Niccolò di Liberatore, a painter who had signed his own painting by writing "Nicholaus Alumnus Fulginiae", that is "Niccolò born and apprenticed in Foligno", a city in Umbria. Giorgio Vasari, a famous art historian, interpreted the phrase as follows: "Niccolò the Student of Foligno" and from that moment this artist was nicknamed "**the Student**". In the central part of the work is the Madonna enthroned with a Baby Jesus and the angels, in the other frames there are several saints, each recognizable by a symbol that characterises him. The background is in very thin **leaves** of pure **gold** while their feet are planted in a garden which has been meticulously detailed.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The myth tells that **carnations** were born from the tears of a young shepherd who had foolishly fallen in love with the goddess Diana, the goddess of the hunt, who first seduced and then abandoned him.

The carnation also appears in Christian tradition, depicted in art in the hand of the Madonna or Jesus. According to a Medieval legend, when the Madonna saw Jesus crucified, the **tears** that began to spring from her eyes fell to the earth and were transformed into carnations. Today, it is used to treat throat and gum infections and in gastrointestinal illnesses.



Do you know how to recognise these characters?



As I've already explained, you can easily recognise every saint by certain objects or their **dress**. Carefully read what four of them have to say and then try to write their respective names. Keep a sharp eye, because under each person the painter has written his name!

"My name is ..... I am wearing a twill, a brown habit, and I have wounds on my hands and feet called the stigmata. I am the patron of Italy."

"I'm ..... from Siena. I am also Franciscan and I have a very thin face, because I am often fasting."

"My name is ..... , I was a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity. Painters usually represent me tied to a pole and pierced with arrows, but this time Niccolò has painted me in beautiful attire and my martyrdom is recalled by the bow gripped in my hand."

"My name is ..... Tired of the decadent lifestyle I once had, I went into the desert to pray. I am half naked and I hold a rock in my hand."



Find the plant

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** This painting portrays the marriage between the Madonna and Saint Joseph. What a lot of people are attending this wedding! All the women who have been invited are behind the **Madonna**, while the men are near **Joseph**.

Look carefully at the men. Can you see? Many of them have sticks in their hands. The apocryphal Gospels tell us that, to choose Mary's spouse, a dry branch of oleander was delivered to each of the suitors. Only that of Joseph miraculously flourished, and he became the chosen one. In fact, in the painting, Joseph is the only one holding a flowering branch in his hand; two suitors are left disappointed, instead, they are depicted breaking the stick that has not flowered.



**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** The **oleander** is a shrub with white, red and pink flowers which, with its colour and perfume, cheers the Italian summers, especially in central and southern Italy.

It is a plant that is found in many gardens even if it is **toxic**, for this reason, in antiquity its flowers were used at funerals. The ancient Romans believed that it even killed snakes. This plant causes nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, dizziness, severe heart problems and difficulty breathing. In folk medicine, dried and pulverized leaves were used to treat scabies, a disease caused by parasites that creep under the skin.



Draw the characters in modern clothes

Often in antiquity, the painters made their characters wear clothes that were fashionable in the years when the paintings were created, so in this case some characters have clothes typical of the 1500s. Imagine you are the painter and **draw** the same scene putting the various characters in clothes that are in fashion today. What clothes would you make Mary and the guest in the foreground wear?



HALL XXX

Title of the work

Author

Date

### LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU

The episode depicted is the Last Supper. Christ is painted in the centre at the back of the scene and he is clearly visible from the red of his habit, the colour of blood and the Passion of Christ. Among the characters in the foreground, one is turned towards you: it is Judas, the treacherous apostle, who holds a bag in his hands with the coins received for betraying Jesus. He is watching you and making you participants in his betrayal! On the table there are many dishes full of food; among these, some slices of lemon, a symbol of **salvation**, for its properties as an **antidote**.

### FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN



Despite being very widespread on the Italian peninsula, the lemon originated in the East, India and China, where it was widely used for its antiseptic, anti-rheumatic and toning properties. In ancient Roman times it was used as an **antidote** to snake bites and other poisons. The Emperor Nero was a great consumer, because he was obsessed with a foreboding that he would be poisoned. Today, the lemon is used for rebalancing the metabolism and its **refreshing**, diuretic, digestive and **astringent** properties. In addition, it is rich in vitamin C, mineral salts and an essential oil that has multiple uses also in cosmetics.



Guess  
what's  
for dinner

Look carefully at the table  
and draw the dishes Crespi painted  
onto the empty plates.  
Then try to give them a name  
and write the ingredients used.  
Like this, you will create a recipe  
book from the painting, about  
religion and ... the flavours  
of the past!



Name of the dish:

.....

Ingredients:

.....



Nome del piatto:

.....

Ingredienti:

.....



Nome del piatto:

.....

Ingredienti:

.....



HALL XXXVII

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** The author painted this picture of Alessandro Manzoni at the request of his wife Teresa. In this painting Alexander, who posed fifteen times, is portrayed with a pensive and serious face, without any object identifying his great capacity as a **writer**. In his left hand, in fact, instead of a book, he holds a snuffbox, a box that is used to contain a mixture of spice powder and nose **tobacco**. A very expensive daily object of use for Manzoni and still kept in his house-museum.

**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** Tobacco is a large annual herb, up to 2 metres high, native to South America.



It was discovered by Christopher Columbus, described the natives' use of it in his diary, and only in 1559 was it brought to Spain and used as an **ornamental plant** in the Royal gardens of Philip II.

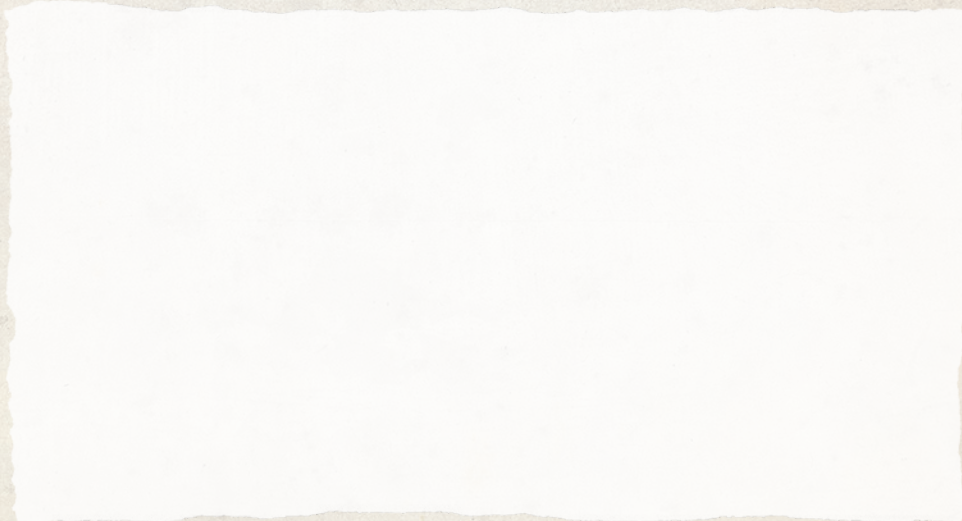
The genus "Nicotiana", from which we derive our word nicotine, was in honour of Jean Nicot, ambassador of the French court who sent some seeds to Caterina de' Medici, who used them to treat her son's ulcers in a lard-based ointment. Nicotine, which in high doses can cause respiratory paralysis, is used in agriculture as a **pesticide** against lice and plant and animal mites.



How  
about you?  
What  
do you see?

Portraits were the photographs  
of the past!  
These days, taking a photo  
is a simple daily action,  
which everyone does without  
any effort or complicated equipment!  
In the past, it wasn't like that:  
if you wanted your own picture,  
you had to call an artist to get  
yourself a **portrait**!

*Take a journey through time and take a selfie with the techniques of the past!  
Draw your family portrait below, and make it more realistic by including your own  
everyday objects!*



HALL XXXVII

Title of the work

Author

Date

**LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU** Hayez has painted the beautiful hands of an odalisque, of whom we also see part of the face and the bright blue turban that wraps her head, which arrange a vase of colourful **flowers** on the window-sill of a harem, a part of the house reserved only for women and children. The setting recalls the Orient, and it is suggested not only by the title of the work, but also by the Persian rug placed under the vase and from the horse shoe shape of the arch. Among the colourful flowers is the **lily**, a symbol of **purity**, and the **nasturtium**, a symbol of **battle**. Each flower in the painting has been painted from life.

**FUN FACTS FROM THE GARDEN** This plant is known by two common names:



“nasturtium” because its aroma reminds us of that of *Nasturtium officinale*, or watercress, and also, in Italian, “monk’s hood grass”, because the flowers recall the hoods of monks.

Native to Peru and Mexico and introduced into Europe by Dutch merchants, the nasturtium is widespread in culinary and medicinal use because the leaves which are rich in **Vitamin C** were used in the past for the treatment of scurvy.

Today it is cultivated for ornamental use in Europe for its showy and abundant flowers in warm shades of yellow, orange and red. An excellent **antibiotic** for skin and scalp infections, the therapeutic properties of the nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*) are found in the leaves, flowers and seeds.



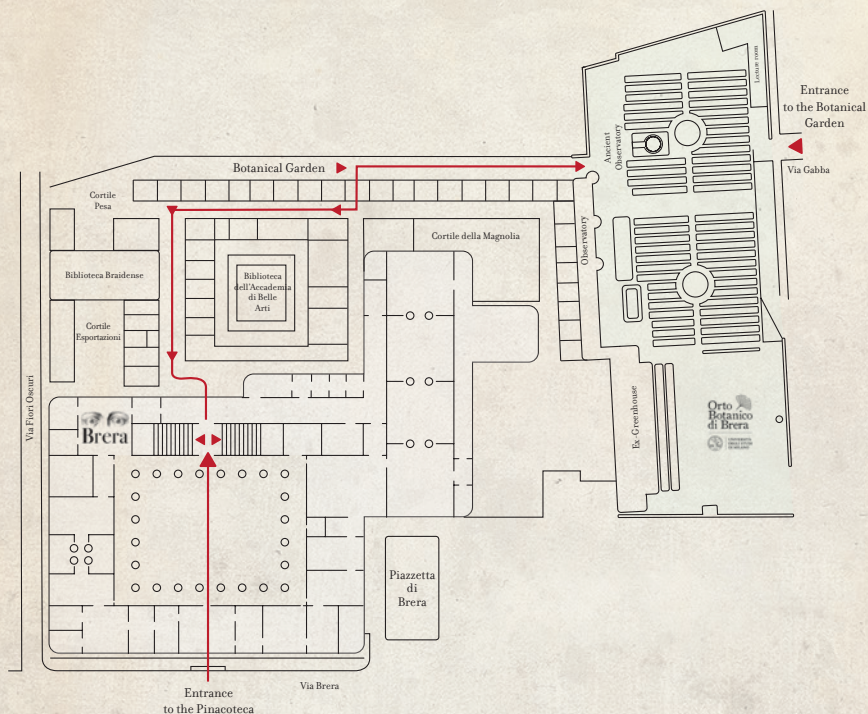
What a lot  
of detail  
in this  
painting

In this picture, there are lots  
of **geometric** shapes – take  
a good look!

The window, the column,  
the patterns on the rug.... they have  
both regular and irregular shapes,  
which become decorative motifs.  
Try to spot them and copy  
them below!



## Artistic-botanical tour in the Pinacoteca and Botanical Garden of Brera



### *Text*

Circolo degli Esploratori Tour Operator, Sansepolcro  
[www.circoloesploratori.it](http://www.circoloesploratori.it) - [www.studentiesplorano.it](http://www.studentiesplorano.it)  
 Artea - Association for the teaching on art and territory  
[www.arteadidattica.com](http://www.arteadidattica.com)

### *Supervision*

Orto Botanico di Brera, Servizi Educativi Pinacoteca di Brera,  
 Associazione Amici di Brera

*Editorial project, layout and editing*  
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**The Botanical Garden of Brera** of the University of Milan, was established in 1774 by Maria Teresa of Austria for the educational and scientific pursuits of students of medicine and pharmacy. It is an historic garden located inside Palazzo Brera, an enchanting and evocative island of greenery in the heart of Milan, dedicated to research and teaching. A wonderful outdoor museum, the Botanical Garden today is the ideal place to learn about and recognise plants, with a different display in every season.

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

**Aboca** is market leader in therapeutic innovations based on natural molecular complexes. It develops and makes innovative, effective and safe products for people's health and well-being. Aboca strongly believes in a new way to cure disease, on medicine that works in harmony with the body's pathophysiological mechanisms. Aboca researches and finds in the complexity of nature the answers best adapted to the questions of today and tomorrow.

[www.aboca.com](http://www.aboca.com)  
[www.arteorto.it](http://www.arteorto.it)

**The Pinacoteca di Brera** has one of the most important collections of Italian paintings in the world. Founded by the Empress Maria Teresa of Austria in 1776, as an aid for students at the Academy of Fine Arts, it became a public museum at the behest of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1809. Brera mostly exhibits works from the 14th century up to the 19th century with a religious subject, which come from abolished churches and convents.

[www.pinotecabrera.org](http://www.pinotecabrera.org)

## OPENING TIMES

### Pinacoteca di Brera

Tuesday to Wednesday: 8:30am – 7.15pm (closed all Monday)

Special openings can be found on our website: [www.pinotecabrera.org](http://www.pinotecabrera.org)

### Botanical Garden of Brera, University of Milan

Monday to Saturday (except public holidays) 10am – 6pm (from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October)

Monday to Saturday (except public holidays) 9.30am – 4.30pm (from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March)

Special openings can be found on our website: [www.museoortibotanicistatale.it](http://www.museoortibotanicistatale.it)