

## PRESS RELEASE

**THREE WORKS BY PALMA IL VECCHIO REPRODUCED  
AND ON DISPLAY IN THE AIRPORT*****Portrait of a Man, Nymphs bathing, Young Woman in a Blue Gown with a Feather.***

These are the three works by Palma il Vecchio, born Jacopo Negretti, that have been reproduced and permanently displayed in the departures terminal of the Milan Bergamo Airport. Bergamo dedicated to the Bergamasque painter his first monographic exhibition, hosted from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015 at Bergamo's Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (GAMEC).

The three examples were chosen by the curator of the grand exhibition, Prof. Giovanni Federico Villa, from among the forty masterpieces coming from the world's largest public and private collections. They have allowed the three decades of Palma il Vecchio's artistic career to be emblematically reproduced.

The exhibition that was on display at GAMEC was entitled "Gazing at Beauty" (*"Lo sguardo della bellezza"*) by Palma il Vecchio, and SACBO, main sponsor of the event, has intended to offer once again the artistic expression of this spectacular painter, who was born in Serina and found success in Venice. The goal is to keep alive the focus on the Bergamasque territory's cultural heritage. The three reproductions are located in the departure gates for the Schengen area, and in front of the large glass wall that faces the city skyline of Bergamo and the Bergamasque Prealps.

*"This is another business card and postcard meant to accompany departing passengers and invite them to return to the artistic sites of Bergamo and its surroundings",* underscored SACBO, *"We're convinced that the airport, designated to welcome passengers and facilitate their transit, should be comfortable in every area, but should also reserve spaces recalling the territory's essence and culture, making the passengers the opinion makers of their respective places of origin or work. The reproduced works of Palma il Vecchio, which are an expression of the universal language of paintings, represent an easily conveyed message and an invitation to live the beauty reflected in the masterpieces that are found by visiting the city of Bergamo and its territory".*

*"Three masterpieces, a master painter, his territory. Three masterpieces to recall, even today, the wonder of the Bergamasque region",* says Giovanni Federico Villa, *"Through the magnificent **Young Woman in a Blue Gown with a Feather**, the icon of the*

*Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna, we see the extraordinary tradition of wool fabric and of the Bergamasque textile merchants. But we also see the sublime art of Palma il Vecchio, able as none other to narrate the softness of a brocade or damask, as well as the fleshy tones and the softness of a young woman's skin. **Portrait of a Man** from the Ermitage is the unveiling of the genius. It reveals a tradition of painting of which Palma was the first sublime master, able to capture the monumental nature of the human figure, and with that the very essence of the subject's personality. With **Nymphs bathing**, we find the revelation of female beauty and the wonder of a mountain region made up of water and an as-yet uncontaminated nature that we can capture just as Palma did over four hundred years ago. Three masterpieces, one master painter, to introduce a territory that is still able to astound with its unexpected landscapes, born of an age-old tradition. And there couldn't be a better venue for this story than the airport".*

*"Making the airport the city's first real reception point is an initiative that is already taking shape", declared Nadia Ghisalberty, cultural director for the Municipality of Bergamo, "Together with other territorial actors and in collaboration with SACBO, we have been gradually multiplying the activities that the Administration is able to offer for promoting Bergamo to the huge flux of arriving passengers entering our country through the Bergamo hub. There were initiatives for the 2015 Milan EXPO, the performance of lyric opera pieces directly at the arrival terminal last year, the installation of the great work from Mastrovito in the baggage claim area: all these are essentially important activities in creating a complete reception hub for tourists that is able to boost the city's reputation among tourists heading to Northern Italy".*

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