

VEILED FAITH

AUDIO-VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Welcome, you are in front of a tactile reproduction with audio-video description of the 'Veiled Lady', a sculpture created by Antonio Corradini around 1720.

The 61 cm-high Carrara marble original is on display in the Guardi Room on the second floor of this museum.

Antonio Corradini was born in Padua in 1668 and was one of the most popular sculptors of the eighteenth century. He also provided the designs for the decoration of the last 'Bucintoro', the ship used for solemn occasions by the Doge of the Republic of Venice.

The Venetian sculptor worked for many European and Italian courts. He died in Naples in 1752 where he had gone to decorate the famous Sansevero Chapel on commission from the alchemist prince Raimondo di Sangro.

The work has many similarities with a full-length statue of the 'Veiled Faith' made by Corradini to adorn the altar of the Holy Sacrament in the cathedral of Este in the province of Padua.

In this case, it takes the form of a bust depicting a young woman of remarkable beauty in almost natural proportions, her face covered by a transparent veil that falls over her face as if wet.

The work probably depicts the 'Allegory of Purity'; in other words, it is a representation of the spiritual condition of innocence and candour.

The motif of the face covered by a veil was frequently employed by Corradini, who was known for his extraordinary technical virtuosity.

Now try to place both hands on the highest part of the sculpture and you will easily sense the shape of the head despite the fact that it is covered by a veil. You will also note that the head is tilted slightly backwards and feel the elegant hairstyle. Reach up with your fingers and you will gradually discover all the extraordinary details emerging from beneath the veil: the half-closed eyelids, the profile of the nose and the lips. Continuing downwards, your fingers will encounter a small cross hanging on her breast and the folds of the robes.

Instead of hiding the figure, the slight transparency of the veil actually accentuates its sensuality, giving it a note of intriguing mystery.

Thank you for dedicating your time to this experience.



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