

## ROOM V



The fifth room tells how Carnival, although partially suspended and absent from daily life during this historical period, continued to live on in the imagination of innovative artists of the 20th century. When the celebration falls silent and the streets empty, the mask does not disappear: it moves into the realm of art. The figures of the *Commedia dell'Arte* — Harlequin, Pulcinella, Pierrot — re-emerge as powerful symbols of freedom, metamorphosis, and inner resistance in the works of Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, and Gino Severini. Stripped of their original festive context, these masks take on new meanings, becoming mirrors of the human soul and vehicles of irony, melancholy, social critique, and dream. In this room, Carnival is no longer a collective celebration, but an intimate and creative act. Through modern and experimental artistic languages, artists reinterpret a tradition that once seemed concluded, demonstrating how art can preserve it, transform it, and project it into the future.

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VENICE  
CARNIVAL  
MUSEUM

### *Welcome to the Venice Carnival Museum!*

The Venice Carnival Museum is entirely dedicated to the artistic imagination and cultural heritage of the Carnival of Venice. The exhibition spans a chronological period from the 18th to the 20th century and offers an artistic and cultural interpretation of Carnival understood as an aesthetic and social phenomenon. The collection includes works of painting, sculpture, and ceramics, as well as historical costumes of exceptional value.

Among the artists featured are internationally renowned masters, ranging from Giuseppe Bernardino Bison and James Holland to Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró. Alongside them are important figures closely connected to Venetian tradition and the applied arts, such as Geminiano Cozzi and Luigi Fabris.

The objects on display reveal Carnival as a space of transformation, masquerade, and ambiguity — key elements of Venetian cultural identity.

The museum originates from the private collection of Arnold Uvarov, who for many years gathered works inspired by Carnival and the *Commedia dell'Arte*, with the aim not only of bringing to light dispersed Venetian artifacts, but also of demonstrating how profoundly the Carnival of Venice has influenced — and continues to influence — the greatest protagonists in the history of art.

With the opening of the Venice Carnival Museum, Venice gains a new cultural space dedicated to one of its most emblematic traditions, offering visitors a fresh perspective on Carnival: not only as a celebration, but as a form of artistic expression and cultural heritage.

The museum is organized into five exhibition spaces, each guiding the visitor through an autonomous and immersive narrative.

## ROOM I



The first room embodies the historical and theatrical soul of Venice, where art, history, and tradition merge into a single timeless narrative. The works converse with one another like chapters of a shared cultural heritage, evoking the grandeur of the Serenissima and its scenic spirit, inseparably linked to the Venetian Carnival and the Commedia dell'Arte. Every detail leads visitors into Venice during the Carnival season, through lively alleyways filled with masks and charlatans, beneath which mysterious figures — the Moors — open the doors of historic palaces.

## ROOM III



The third room welcomes visitors into a luminous and refined atmosphere, where light, color, and emotion take center stage. The paintings, oil on canvas and dating from the first half to the mid-20th century, are distinguished by quick, vibrant brushstrokes, intense color palettes, and a masterful use of light that animates urban scenes, landscapes, and festive moments of Carnival. Venice emerges as the central theme: canals, masks, celebrations, and architecture become opportunities for experimentation with reflections, movement, and visual perception. Alongside painting, the room hosts refined sculptures by Luigi Fabris, in which masked figures, ladies, and gentlemen bring to life a universe suspended between reality and dream, where attention to detail and light merges with a rich and elegant decorative taste.

## ROOM II



The second room invites visitors into a world of elegance, harmony, and refinement — core values of European artistic culture between the 18th and 19th centuries. The paintings celebrate the human figure, portrayed with dignity and grace, set within the evocative context of the Venetian Carnival, a symbol of measured theatricality and sophisticated social life. Alongside paintings by Claudio Rinaldi and Henri Serur, decorative porcelain works by Geminiano Cozzi and the dress once belonging to the favorite of King Louis XV's son draw attention to attention to detail, technical perfection, and harmony of form.

## ROOM IV



The fourth room transports visitors into the sophisticated and luminous atmosphere of the early decades of the 20th century, an era marked by a desire for modernity, elegance, and progress. Paintings, sculptures, and one of the symbols of Venetian fashion of the period — the Delphos gown by Mariano Fortuny — engage in dialogue, evoking images of high society, masquerades, and refined female figures, emblems of freedom and allure. The room invites visitors to immerse themselves in an elegant and theatrical world, where art, fashion, and design blend into a timeless style.