



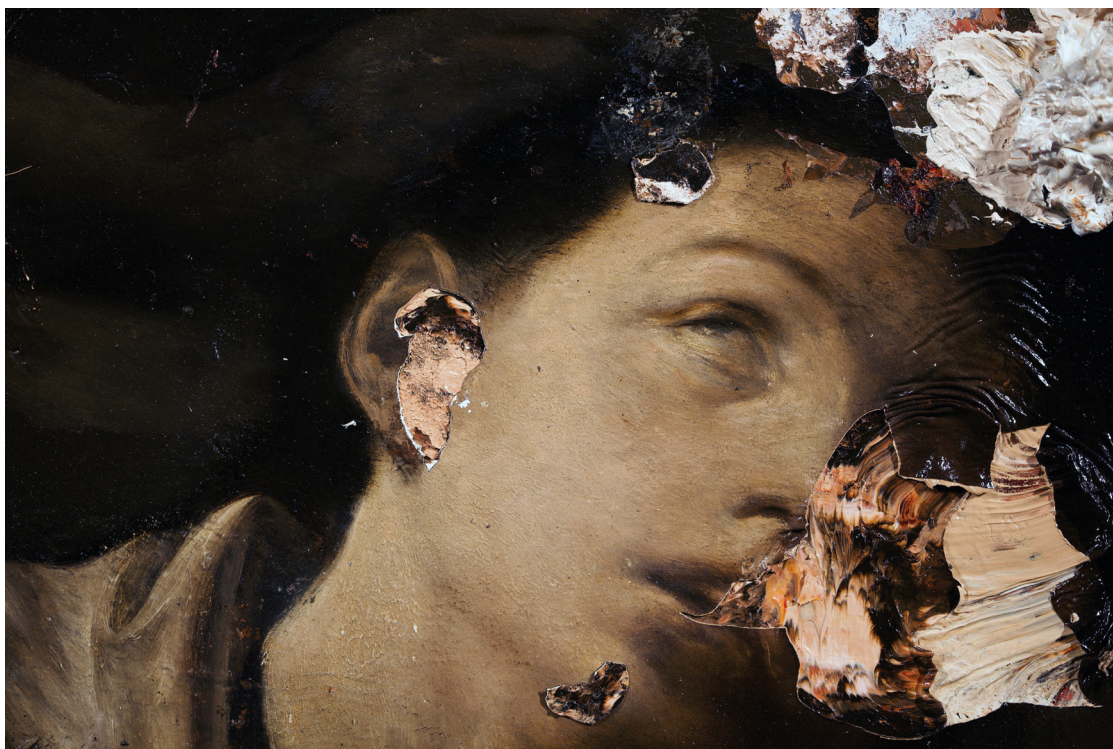
ABBZIA DI SAN GIORGIO MAGGIORE  
BENEDICTI CLAUSTRA ONLUS

# Petrae Fidei

Vittore Carpaccio 1516 - Nicola Samorì 2024

Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, Conclave Chapel

22 December 2024 - 09 March 2025



Nicola Samorì, *Primo Martire* (detail), 2024.

Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

© Nicola Samorì

On the occasion of the loan of Vittore Carpaccio's altarpiece depicting *Saint George killing the dragon* to the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart for the exhibition «Carpaccio, Bellini und die Frührenaissance in Venedig», the Benedictine Community of San Giorgio Maggiore - through its non profit branch *Benedicti Claustra Onlus* - commissioned the artist from Romagna Nicola Samorì a painting to temporarily replace the well-known sixteenth-century masterpiece.

Portraying the Holy Knight in the act of destroying the dragon, on Vittore Carpaccio's canvas a scene of the stoning of Saint Stephen - co-titular, together with Saint George, of the Benedictine Monastery - is meticulously described in the background. It is precisely from the joint representation of these two Saints that *Primo Martire* originates: "in the painting I made for the Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore", declares the Artist, "I intended to bring the martyrdom of Saint Stephen to the foreground, overturning the legible proportions in Carpaccio's artwork: it is the First Martyr who looms large, while Saint George becomes a sort of *blasone*, imprinted on Stephen's mantle, in a reverse temporality, as if the Martyr dressed the future."



Vittore Carpaccio, *Saint George killing the dragon*, 1516.  
 Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice  
 Photo: Mauro Magliani  
 © Abbazia di San Giorgio Maggiore - Benedicti Claustra Onlus

Drawing iconographic inspiration from the *Stoning of Saint Stephen* painted by Pier Francesco Cittadini in 1637 for the Basilica of Saint Stephen in Bologna, Samorì materially struck the effigy of the Saint - victim, as is known, of stoning, and therefore traditionally depicted in co-presence of stones -, through the pressure of stones on the canvas. "The stoning took place physically on the body of the painting, opening gashes in the still soft oil modeled", continues Samorì: "my transcription of the ancient model is quite faithful, but the texture of the painting is shocked by incursions which precipitate the Baroque code towards Informal gesture".





Nicola Samorì, Untitled, 2024  
Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice  
© Nicola Samorì

On the big lectern of the central *badalone*, in the same Chapel, a *stone painting* is displayed: a thin slab of breccia opened like a book, coming from Vendôme, in France, which records a heterogeneous chorality of different mineralized materials, almost a fossilized explosion, which seems to crystallize the flow of stones towards Stefano's body.

In progress is also a contemporary illuminated manuscript. Traditionally made in the Book Restoration Laboratory of Praglia Abbey, the artefact will be personally enriched by the Artist - joining the collection of contemporary illuminated manuscripts donated to the Benedictine Community of San Giorgio Maggiore.

The space that will host the exhibition project from **22 December 2024 to 09 March 2025** is located in the Night Choir of the Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, a private area of the Monastery better known today as the Conclave Chapel - a name it acquired after having hosted, in 1800, the cardinal assembly that elected to the papal throne Pope Pius VII (born Gregorio Barnaba Chiaramonti, Cassinese Benedictine monk, then Bishop of Imola).

The entrance to the exhibition is free, and the access is possible only through guided tours provided on site without advance booking.

**Courtesy the artist and Monitor Roma, Lisbona, Pereto (AQ)**

## **Nicola Samorì**

Nicola Samorì was born in 1977 in Forlì and graduated in 2004 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna. Painter and sculptor, his career highlights the attempt to endanger forms derived from the history of Western culture; in them the opening of the represented body and the pictorial surface are shown without interruption and the impression is that the birth of a new work always involves the sacrifice of an old one.

His work has been exhibited in national and international museums and exhibitions: 56th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia 'ALL THE WORLD'S FUTURES'; MOCAP, Kraków; 16th Art Quadrennial, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome; Kunsthalle, Tübingen; TRAFO Center for Contemporary Art, Szczecin; Palazzo Reale, Milan; YU-HSIU MUSEUM of ART, Nantou, Taiwan; Mart, Rovereto, Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples; Palazzo Fava, Bologna; Villa d'Este, Tivoli.

## **Abbazia di San Giorgio Maggiore - Benedicti Clastra Onlus**

The *Benedicti Clastra Onlus*, the non-profit branch of the Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, was founded in 2012 from the will of the Benedictine monks to promote and support, through direct collaboration, activities and projects for the development of art and artistic research. The Monastic Community of the Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, in the wake of a centuries-old tradition, regularly hosts cultural initiatives with a strong spiritual connotation inside the Palladian Basilica. The presence of contemporary artworks within a sacred space has awakened the sensitivity of the faithful and visitors, triggering a fertile discussion that opens new horizons of evangelization and dialogue. The various activities of the *Benedicti Clastra Onlus* are part of a general program named «Art saves Art»: all donations for the various cultural activities are reinvested in restorations for the enhancement and promotion of the Historical Artistic Heritage of the Abbey.

*Abbot*

Stefano Visintin osb

*Director and Institutional Curator*

Carmelo A. Grasso

---

## **Petrae Fidei**

### **Vittore Carpaccio 1516 - Nicola Samorì 2024**

*Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice*

*22 December 2024 - 09 March 2025*

*Opening hours: 10:00 am - 05:00 pm*

*Closed on Mondays*

*Free entrance*

*Info: [abbazia@abbaziasangiorgio.it](mailto:abbazia@abbaziasangiorgio.it)*