

## *Tribute to Gonin brothers. Enrico and Francesco, Piedmontese artists of the XIX century*

Francesco Gonin is known for his illustrations of the 1840 edition of *I Promessi Sposi*, a masterpiece of nineteenth-century Italian literature by Alessandro Manzoni. His images have created an iconography of Manzoni's opera, still unmatched and now part of the popular Italian imagination.

Other than two original copies of *I Promessi Sposi*, the exhibition presents unpublished paintings and watercolors, among which stands the portrait of Erminia Provana del Sabbione and his child.

Visitors can also admire portraits of some members of the Piedmontese nobility and two large paintings of very high pictorial quality illustrating the *Battle of Turin* of 1706 and *The arrival in the cathedral of the Duke and the Prince Eugene for the Te Deum*.

*The heroic death of the carabiniere on horseback Giovanni Battista Scapaccino* comes from the historical museum of the Carabinieri of Rome.

The project is completed by two halls in the Prefecture of Turin: the "Chinese drawing room" and the "Hall of mirrors". Gonin painted some valuable landscapes of romantic taste in the first room and a group of flying cherubs on the vault of the second.

Through films, photographs and panels visitors can appreciate the splendid frescoes of the Hermitage of Belmonte di Busca and the pictures painted on the houses of the historic center of Giaveno which represent the characters of *I Promessi Sposi*.

Enrico Gonin is remembered for having designed and lithographed the *Album delle principali Castella feudali della Monarchia di Savoia* around the middle of the nineteenth century. The twelve castles on show, extracted from the Album, were watercolored by Adriana Costamagna, painter of Bene Vagienna.

The project, proposed by the association P.I.C.S., not only aims at spreading and deepening the knowledge of the talent who worked in the nineteenth century for the Savoyard dynasty but it especially wishes to highlight the vast artistic heritage spread throughout the region.

*Palazzo Lascaris*

Carla Spagnuolo Gallery

21 December – 1 February 2019

Monday – Friday 9:00 – 17:00

Free entry

