

Brochure

Franco Rasetti Association, Museum at Palazzo Moretti in Pozzuolo Umbro.

The museum houses a permanent photographic exhibition, with a rich historical archive, dedicated to physicist Franco Rasetti, who was born in Pozzuolo Umbro on the 10th of August 1901 and died in the town of Waremmes, in Belgium, on the 5th of December 2001. The various rooms host other exhibitions and displays that tell the area's rather fascinating and important history. For years now, our association has been working to keep his historical memory alive and to disseminate his work as a physicist, botanist, entomologist and palaeontologist.

Exhibition and conference room.

The imposing entrance and corridor on the ground floor offer a vast exhibition area that now includes an exhibition of mosaic paintings by Franco Falappa. These paintings narrate and depict the story of "Aeneas", the hero of Virgil's Aeneid, a poem which tells of the events that took place following his flight from Troy until his arrival in Italy.

The other spaces on this floor are used for exhibitions by Italian and foreign artists, offering them a place to express their creativity.

Local history room.

Next to the corridor is a large room housing an exhibition dedicated to the history of the "Fioretti" brickworks. In the 1900s, the brickworks supplied building materials to the whole surrounding area. The various tools and artefacts have been restored by Valentino Fioretti, and some photos from 1913 complete the history of this ancient art.

The room also houses the hobby corner with miniature reproductions of objects created using original techniques.

Projection room.

The projection room is up a short flight of stairs, and here visitors can watch films of scientific and educational interest and documentaries about Italian physics and the work of Franco Rasetti. Federico Scaletti's collection of photographs are hung on the walls, offering an important historical overview of the 13 hamlets of the municipality of Castiglione del Lago and details of its recent past.

Franco Rasetti Rooms.

On the first floor there are five rooms dedicated to the biography of scientist and naturalist Franco Rasetti, whose life was characterised by a passion for research and knowledge. The autonomy of the student and researcher was an essential element along with his belief that all disciplines deserve consideration, as they constitute the important legacy of mankind. It was this conviction that guided him throughout his life and led him to make important decisions at the expense of his immediate popularity.

Today, it is thanks to the testimony of scientists like Rasetti that scholars are much more aware of the social role played by science and tend to focus on problems concerning nuclear proliferation, weapons control, climate change, the overpopulation of the planet and research into medicine, all from a perspective that is not only objective but also more emphatic.

He was against the involvement of scientific research for military purposes and war, claiming that peace is defended also by preventing conflicts.

The building also houses an extensive palaeontology exhibition, curated by naturalist Mario Morellini. Franco Rasetti's passion for nature led him to become an expert on Cambrian fossils, focusing specifically on "Trilobites", one of the oldest forms of life on our planet, dating back 500 to 540 million years ago.

One of the elements on display is his book "I fiori delle Alpi" (Flowers of the Alps), published in 1980, and there is also a second edition from 1996. This volume contains a large collection of pictures of Alpine flora in bloom, taken during 30 years of hiking at altitudes above 2000 metres. Rasetti shows a keen talent for photography, with outstanding skill and expertise, having taken 8000 shots and selected 527 photos for the book.

Those who have a place in the exhibition include family members, such as his mother Adele Galeotti, a highly regarded artist who studied at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts, a pupil of Giovanni Fattori, leader of the Macchiaioli movement in the early 1900s. His father, Giovanni Emilio Rasetti, graduated in Agronomy from the University of Pisa and was director of the most important "Ambulant Chair of Agriculture" in Central Italy. Other relatives featured include his uncle Gino Galeotti and his aunt Giulia, as well as his grandparents, Anna Cartoni and Melitone Galeotti.

The exhibitions would not be complete without that dedicated to Enrico Fermi, Rasetti's friend during his university days and a close collaborator in Via Panisperna in Rome. In 1938, Enrico Fermi was awarded the Nobel Prize for his great insights and discoveries.

Franco Rasetti Historical Archive Room.

The main room houses the historical archive, which contains paper material, certificates, medals, books and objects that once belonged to the Umbrian scientist. These were all donated to the Franco Rasetti Association in 2015 and 2018, shortly before his death, by the Rasetti family's representative, lawyer Gianfranco Cecchi Aglietti. These objects tell the story and the life of the 20th century's most eclectic scientist and researcher.

Teodorico Moretti Room.

Continuing the visit, we come to the room dedicated to philosopher Teodorico Moretti-Costanzi, the last owner of Palazzo Moretti. He was born on the 25th of April 1912 in Pozzuolo Umbro, the second son of Pierleone and Emilia Costanzi, and brother of Siro, two years his senior. Teodorico was included in the trio of winners of the competition for theoretical philosophy announced by the University of Pisa in 1951. The following year, he was called by the University of Bologna, where he remained until the end of his career. He died in Tuoro on the 23rd of June 1995.

Elda Brignoli Rooms - "Pictures and Emotions".

Going up to the second floor we find the exhibition of the Milanese artist Elda Brignoli, who loved Umbria, leaving her most significant works in a permanent exhibition entitled "Immagini ed emozioni" (Pictures and Emotions). She began painting as a young girl, perfecting her drawing skills and particularly her study of the human figure, at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts.

"Old Trades" Room.

The same floor also houses Ezio Mazieri's large technological work featuring the construction of a moving landscape that tells the story of the old trades of the 19th and 20th centuries, in which the figures are mechanically operated, giving visitors an idea of the work they performed.

"The two wars" Rooms.

Two second-floor rooms house an exhibition that pays tribute to and commemorates the two wars. Photographs and documents are used to retrace those dramatic moments. These include the memory of those who fought for liberation and of Lieutenant Colonel Giovanni Battista Fioretti, who died in Cephalonia in 1943.

Noble chapel of the Moretti-Costanzi family.

In the last room, we find the Moretti family church and the baptismal font of S. Margherita, a place of meditation and deep spirituality.

During the winter months of December and January, a live nativity scene is set up in the gardens of the building. While in summer, the gardens become a venue for musical events and convivial evenings.

Admission by donation in support of the Franco Rasetti Association.