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OPENING TIMES  
WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY 10-13 / 15-19  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY closed

TICKET  
FULL € 10  
REDUCED € 8  
STUDENTS 7-25 Y.O. € 5

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Catalogue

DARIO CIMORELLI EDITORE

# donna musa artista

Ritratti di  
**Cesare  
Tallone**

tra Otto e  
Novecento

MUSEO  
**VILLA  
BASSI**  
RATHGEB

**ABANO TERME**

**14.09.24  
09.02.25**

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## donna musa artista

### Ritratti di Cesare Tallone tra Otto e Novecento

The exhibition came about following a path of study and research into the permanent collection of the Villa Bassi Rathgeb Museum and, in particular, into the group of works by Cesare Tallone. The artist's production of female portraits has been highlighted in this project, from which a reflection emerges of Italian society between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Born in Savona in 1853, Tallone attended the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan as a student of Giuseppe Bertini, coming into contact with the most progressive artistic circles of the time. His subsequent stay in Rome enabled him to absorb the innovations of the capital's artistic environment, developing an expressive language of powerful and original naturalism; this was also the result of his studies conducted into the old masters, but also of keeping up-to-date on modern painting of international scope. In 1885 he was appointed Director of the Carrara Academy in Bergamo, bringing about a profound renewal in the city's cultural

environments. It was here that his story became interwoven with that of the Bassi Rathgeb family; Tallone lived in the family's building in Via Pignolo in Bergamo, where he left the *Portrait of His Sister Linda Maria* (circa 1887), which has been reunited for this occasion with the companion piece of her husband, Engineer Guglielmo Davoglio, from the Civic Museums of Pavia. Much loved by his students, first at the Carrara Academy and from 1899 at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Tallone taught and influenced a number of generations of artists, including Pellizza da Volpedo, Umberto Boccioni and Carlo Carrà. An artist of great success and a portraitist of Queen Margherita, he was the founder of one of the first female schools of painting. The aim of the exhibition is to convey a feeling of the free and open environment to which Tallone belonged, where certain female portraits were created forming a kaleidoscope of emblematic images of a society in transformation, starting with the *Double Female Portrait* (1887), and going on to that of *Lina Cavalieri* (circa 1905), an icon of style who is also prominent in the Campari poster that is present in the exhibition together with others from the Salce Collection in Treviso, and finally to the "scandalous" *Female Nude* (circa 1910). In the exhibition itinerary, in order to create a dialogue with Tallone's works, others by Giacomo Grosso, Lino Selvatico and Giovanni Boldini are included to present that different vision of the female world that was characteristic of La Belle Époque.



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#### ON THE COVER

Cesare Tallone,  
*Portrait of Lina Cavalieri*,  
circa 1905.  
Sesto San Giovanni,  
Galleria Campari Archive

1

Giovanni Boldini,  
*Half-length portrait of lady  
with flowers on her belt*,  
circa 1909.  
Private collection

2

Cesare Tallone,  
*Portrait of Lady*, 1894.  
Monticelli Brusati,  
Antica Fratta Collection

3

Cesare Tallone,  
*Portrait of Linda Maria  
Tallone, painter's sister*,  
circa 1887.  
Abano Terme,  
Villa Bassi Rathgeb  
Museum

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Cesare Tallone,  
*Portrait of Engineer  
Guglielmo Davoglio*,  
circa 1887.  
Pavia, Civic Museums