



Art and culture at the Town Hall

**Joan
Mirò**



**Pietro
Annigoni**



**Galileo
Chini**



montecatini terme
contemporary art

Montecatini Terme's Townhall



When the Town Council of Montecatini decided to build the new town hall, it wanted a building that could properly represent the town and its official role. In 1911 it commissioned the local architect Raffaeallo Brizzi, assisted by Council engineer Luigi Righetti as director of works, to design and construct it. The approved design was a classical and monumental Renaissance style building, in other words, a palace that perfectly suited its position of power. Three flights of stairs breach the facade thus raising the ground floor above the level of the road in front of it and accentuating its visual impact. Illumination for the atrium inside comes from a triple arcade, which gives the impression of a loggia and therefore creates a reception area mediating between the exterior and the interior. A monumental staircase with a banister in wrought iron leads up from the entrance hall to the first floor where it is possible to admire the splendid decorations carried out by Galileo Chini.

Per le foto si ringrazia lo
STUDIO FOTOGRAFICO ROSELLINI.

Joan Mirò – Woman wrapped in a flight of birds



Joan Mirò (Barcellona 1893 – Palma de Majorca 1983) moved to Paris when he was still very young, in a period of revolution for contemporary art. After meeting Breton, Masson and Eluard, from 1924 he became a member of the artistic movement of Surrealism. His works were characterised by an enthusiastic freedom, that often seemed primordial or infantile, accompanied by vast areas of bright colour. His work strongly influenced an entire generation of new

American artists, in particular Jackson Pollock and the Abstract Expressionists. The critics recognise Mirò as being one of the greatest links between European and American art. *Woman wrapped in a flight of birds* (1980) is one of the largest canvases that Mirò ever painted (315x260 cm). The painting, one of the artist's last works, was painted in his studio in Palma di Majorca, where he took refuge in the last years of his life. In this painting black prevails over everything else: stains of black explode from a central nucleus towards the exterior and recall the suggestive flutter of a bird's flight, which gives life to essential and undefined forms, completely abstract elements, again inspired by the artist's imagination. The painting arrived in Montecatini in 1980, donated by Mirò's May initiative, an event that attracted many artists of international fame to town. Cuban exile Carlos Franqui (a friend of Mirò) brought the canvas over from Spain rolled up like a carpet, to avoid permits and bureaucratic hold-ups. The great painting was restored in the 1990's