

where now **→ Rome**

The month's top entertainment,
art, and attractions



» FOCUS The Gift of ART

By Tiffany Parks

If you've already blown your holiday budget on airfare and accommodation, or if you prefer to avoid buying into the excessive consumerism of our modern world, give yourself (and your favorite travel partner) the gift of art this Christmas. With the varied and vibrant exhibitions going on in Rome this month, you'll have a plethora of options for an inexpensive, inspiring, and unforgettable gift.

Antonio Aquili, better known as **Antoniazzo Romano**, has the distinction of being the first great Renaissance artist to be born in Rome. Nevertheless, in the nearly 600 years since his birth, only now has the first-ever monographic exhibition of his work been assembled, hosted by Palazzo Barberini (below). A contemporary and collaborator of Renaissance legends such as Benozzo Gozzoli, Piero della Francesca, Domenico Ghirlandaio, Melozzo da Forlì, and Perugino, Antoniazzo combined Renaissance innovations with traditional characteristics of the medieval style. More than fifty works, including polyp-tychs, altarpieces, small devotional paintings, frescoes, and sketches, along with a number of works by other artists of the same period, illustrate Antoniazzo's contribution to the development of the Renaissance.



Take a voyage to some of the most sacred destinations in the world through the images of Japanese photographer **Kazuyoshi Nomachi**. A new exhibit at the [MACRO](#) (left) displays a selection of Nomachi's works that capture the both spirituality and the extraordinary landscapes of some of the world's most fascinating locations, as well as the diverse ways people around the globe practice their religion. Trek the highest ridges of the Andes Mountains between Peru and Bolivia, sail the sacred waters of the Nile Delta or the Ganges River at Varanasi, visit the highlands of Ethiopia and Tibet, or take part in the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

If a sunny holiday season in Rome has left you pining for a white Christmas, visit the [Carlo Maria Biagiarelli Antique Gallery](#), where the new exhibit **Colors under the Snow** (right) will bring you some winter cheer straight from the snow-covered plains of Russia. One hundred 20th-century oil paintings follow the arc of Soviet art, from the propagandistic images celebrating the struggles, achievements, and progress of the revolutionaries; to works of realism that depict everyday life and characteristic landscapes; to the avant-garde creations of daring artists such as Vladimir Malevich, Mikhail Lorisov, and Natalia Goncharova.

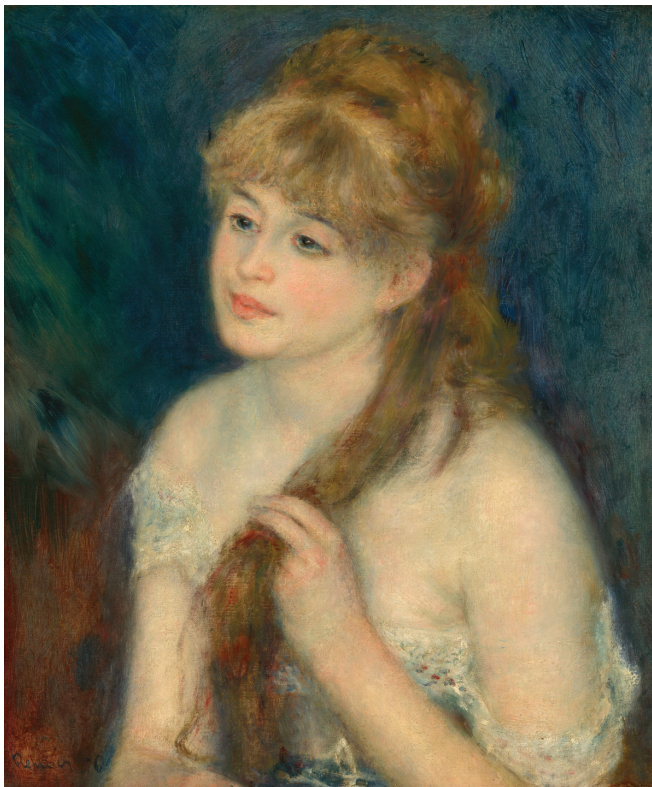
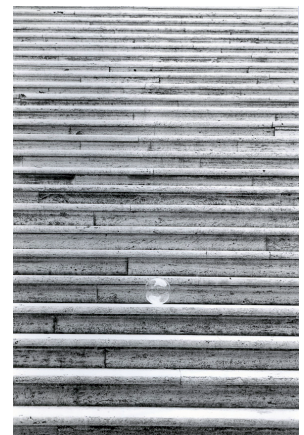
A vast collection of **Impressionist Gems** (below) is leaving its home at Washington DC's National Gallery of Art for the first



time since it was donated by the art collector Andrew W. Mellon during the presidency of FDR. [The Ara Pacis Museum](#) is the only European leg of this traveling exhibit that features masterpieces such as Cézanne's *Still Life with Milk Jug and Fruit*, Renoir's *Picking Flowers*, and Gauguin's *Self Portrait Dedicated to Carrière*. From Van Gogh's flowers to Manet's still lifes, from Monet's landscapes to Degas's dancers, take a journey through turn-of-the-century France at one of the key moments in the history of art.

[Palazzo Venezia](#) is hosting the first-ever exhibition of the works of Venetian painter **Carlo Saraceni**, active in Rome during the first two decades of the 17th century. Like many artists of the period, he was highly influenced by the shocking naturalism of his contemporary, Caravaggio. Although his style was clearly Roman, his stunning chromatic ability betrays his Venetian origins. The exhibition focuses on the artist's stylistic evolution as well as the vibrant setting in which he worked. More than sixty paintings, many of them restored for the occasion, come from various churches in Rome as well as international museums and collections, and some are on display in Italy for the first time.

For an afternoon of culture as contemporary as it gets, the [Carlo Bilotti Museum](#) is hosting an exhibition of works by photographer and installation artist **Fiorella Rizzo** (right). In her 30-year career, Rizzo has tackled such daunting subjects as the relationship between art and life, the journey of discovery of the self and its realization through creativity, and the revelation of the infinite in the finite. Works spanning her entire career will be on display, including photographs, videos, and installations.



See listings on pp 56-58 for addresses and opening times.