Jacopo dal Ponte, painter

1510 ca. - 1592

Jacopo dal Ponte, called Bassano (Bassano del Grappa 1510 ca. - 1592) is considered one of the leading figures of the Italian Art of the 16th century. He was initially educated at his father’s workshop, then in Venice at Bonifacio de’ Pitati’s. When he finished his training, he returned to his home town, which he left only on rare occasions for work reasons. Even though he mainly worked in Bassano, collections of his works can be seen in many places in Italy and all over the world, among which London, Edinburgh, Madrid, Budapest, Vienna, Rhode Island, Washington, New York.

In 1546 he married Elisabetta Merzari with whom he had eight children, and four of them, Francesco, Giambattista, Leandro and Girolamo were to become, like their father, prolific and inspired painters.

It is only fair that the journey to the discovery of his most famous works preserved in the province of Vicenza starts at the Town Museum of his home town Bassano del Grappa, where the biggest and most important collection can be admired.
1. **Town Museum - BASSANO**
The Town Museum of Bassano was built in 1928 thanks to a bequest by the naturalist Giambattista Brocchi, and since 1840 its seat is the former monastery of the Church Chiesa di San Francesco. In it we find, besides the sections dedicated to Canonico and its archaeology, a picture gallery with more than 500 paintings from the period between the 13th and the 20th century, and among them is the biggest existing collection of works by Jacopo Dal Ponte in the world, and many records of the activity of his workshop. Among his most famous works are: "Martyrdom of St Catherine of Alexandria", "St John the Baptist in the Desert", "Enthroned Madonna and Child Presented With the Saints Matthew, Francis and Lucy", and the "Flight Into Egypt".

2. **Piazzetta da Ponte - BASSANO**
At the centre of this small square we can admire a statue upon a column, portraying Jacopo Bassano.

3. **Church Chiesa Ss. Trinità - BASSANO**
"The Most Holy Trinity"
This altarpiece was commissioned to Francesco il Vecchio, but made by Jacopo in 1547. After the demolition of the ancient church, where it was located, it was moved to the location of the present church. The new church today contains an altarpiece on the counter-façade.

4. **Church Chiesa S. Simone e Giuda - CARTIGLIANO**
"Fresco decoration"
This well-preserved fresco cycle of 1575 is the most complete testimony in the most complete way to the activity of Jacopo and his son Francesco as fresco painters. The iconographic scheme repeats the one of the church of Enego, which is lost today. Each of the four vault ribs contains a representation of one evangelist who is talking with a Father of the Church.

5. **Church Chiesa di S. Marco - CASSOLA**
"St Mark in Glory"
The altarpiece was put on the main altar of the parish church of Cassola on 21st December 1573, which is dedicated to St Mark. The traditional view upon the mountain outline of the Monte Grappa is missing, since it shows the point of view from the mountain towards the plain, where Cassola lies.

6. **Church Chiesa di S. Giustina - ENEGO**
"Enthroned St Justina"
For the church of Enego, Jacopo painted the frescos of the choir, the nave and the ceiling. They were heavily damaged by fires in 1613 and 1762 and destroyed when the ancient church was demolished. The new church today contains an altarpiece on the counter-façade.

7. **Church Chiesa di Santa Caterina - LUSIANA**
"Madonna and Child"
It bears neither date, nor signature, but because of its style it can be considered contemporary to the painting of Fate (now preserved at the Vicenza Town Museum), which, according to Dal Ponte’s household account book, was made between 1534 and 1535.

8. **Church Chiesa di San Giacomo - LUSIANA**
"Pentecost" and "Nativity"
In this parish church of the 8th century, probably built by Benedicente monks, set in the very centre of the village, the choir, the nave and the ceiling. They were heavily damaged by fires in 1613 and 1762 and destroyed when the ancient church was demolished. The new church today contains an altarpiece on the counter-façade.

9. **Church Chiesa di Sant’Antonio - MAROSTICA**
"St Paul’s Sermon"
This huge altarpiece of 1574 is the first example of work signed by Jacopo and his son Francesco. The scene is inspired by a piece of the Book of Acts. Jacopo painted the figures in the foreground, while his son Francesco probably was in charge of the figures in the background, the scene and the landscape.

10. **Church Chiesa di San Luca - Loc. Crosara di MAROSTICA**
"Deposition"
The altarpiece, made around 1537-1538, stylistically similar to other works of the same time in the Bassano area, like e.g. the altarpiece of Pove. It bears neither date, nor signature, but because of its style it can be considered contemporary to the painting of Fate (now preserved at the Vicenza Town Museum), which, according to Dal Ponte’s household account book, was made between 1534 and 1535.

11. **Church Chiesa di S. Vigilio - POVE DEL GRAPPA**
"St Vigilius in Glory"
St Vigilius’ figure dominates this altarpiece painted between 1536 and 1537 for the parish church of Pove. St Jerome and St John the Baptist are talking to him.

12. **Town Museum at Palazzo Chiericati - VICENZA**
The museum hosts different works by Jacopo and his sons Francesco and Leandro. Among the most famous are: "The Rectors of Vicenza Silvano Cappello and Giovanni Moro Kneeling Before the Enthroned Madonna With the Saints Mark and Vincent" and "Adoration of the Child and Angels Carrying the Instruments of the Passion".

13. **Church Chiesa deis Carmini - VICENZA**
"Carriage of Christ to His Tomb at Night"
This oil painting, which measures 258 cm x 143 cm is kept here after having been moved from the church Chiesa di Santa Croce.

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Route: Jacopo dal Ponte called Jacopo Bassano 50°

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