

# Casimiro Brugnone De Rossi

Italian Painter  
(1818-1876)

He was born in Ivrea in 1818 and on an unspecified date moved to Rome, where he spent the rest of his life. It is certain that in 1833 he was already among the students of the Accademia di San Luca, where he participated in the competitions for the second drawing class. In 1835 he participated in the competition of the first painting class with a drawing depicting *Jesus Appearing to the Disciples in the Last Supper*, at a time when he had begun to frequent the studio of Tommaso Minardi. His first independent work dates back to 1840, exhibited in the Sala di Piazza del Popolo, a large canvas with the subject *The Redeemer in the House of Lazarus Rebukes Martha*. The painter managed to win the Pellegrini Competition of 1851 with an essay on the theme *Job Mocked by his Wife*. With the *Resurrection of Christ* executed in 1853 for the Campana chapel in the church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, exhibited in the Hall of Piazza del Popolo, the praise received led the painter to establish himself as one of the main interpreters of the Roman scene. In fact, shortly thereafter he was called to participate in the decoration of the Basilica of San Paolo - fresco with *Saint Paul burning the books at Ephesus* - and he was admitted to exhibit at the Universal Exhibition in London in 1862, where he sent more than ten paintings. His last major commission dates back to 1870, when he painted two canvases for the Cathedral of Santiago de Chile depicting *The Visitation of Saint Elizabeth* and *The Resurrection*, in which he revisited compositions from previous works.

Active mainly in sacred art in the tradition of mid-century Roman painting, among the most prestigious commissions received by the painter is the altarpiece with *The Vision of Saint Pius V*, signed and dated 1856, commissioned for the church of Saints Pio and Antonio in Anzio by direct order of Pope Pius IX (oil on canvas, in situ). The painting, which depicts Pope Ghisleri intent on receiving from the Archangel Michael the vision of the victory of the Christian fleet over the Turkish one, reveals in the figure of Pius V the belonging to a Tuscan-Roman academicism in the diligence of the drawing and in the plasticity of the pose, while the Archangel Michael is more influenced by purism.

In the undertaking carried out in the Feoli chapel in Santa Maria del Popolo, with the frescoes of the vault and the altarpiece depicting *Saint Thomas of Villanova* (oil on canvas, ca. 1860), his style evolved more in a purist key, also taking up decorative motifs of early Renaissance classicism.

He died in Rome on 12 April 1876.

Translated from:

<https://www.carlovirgilio.it/autore/brugnone-de-rossi-casimiro-1818-1876/>