

Rodolfo Villani

Italian painter
(1881-1941)

He was born in Rome on 30 May 1881. He was a pupil of the painter Virginio Monti, he learned the fresco technique and collaborated with the master for the decoration of numerous Italian churches. From 1912 to 1921 he was general secretary of the International Artistic Association. In 1914 he created an altarpiece that the King of Italy donated to the church of Santa Maria Latina in Jerusalem. He participates in the First World War in the ranks of the Third Army, commanded by the Duke of Aosta, his personal friend, as an official photographer. During the war he executed numerous paintings on the phases of the fighting which were then exhibited in the 1st Roman Biennale of 1921.



He participated in the decoration of the Viminale palace and the palace of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. He creates mosaics in the basilica of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in Palestine and frescoes the royal residences of Egypt (Alexandria and Cairo). He is general secretary of the three editions of the Roman Biennale.

In 1925 he painted the portrait of Pope Pius XI, which he then reproduced in mosaic in the basilica of San Paolo fuori le mura. In 1928 in Rome he frescoed two rooms of the Ministry of Education and decorated the apse of the church of San Patrizio with mosaics. In 1935 he frescoed the facade of the church of San Felice in Centocelle. In Vicenza he decorates the chapel of the "Montanina", a city where he also creates mosaics in the church of the Assunta. For twenty years in Rome he was master of the figure and director of the art schools at the Pantheon and at the San Michele a Ripa institute. He has participated in national and international exhibitions including the Biennials and the Quadrennials. In 1931 he published a volume on the history of fine arts exhibitions in Rome and in 1940, a book of poems published by the Palombi publishing house.

He died in Rome on 20 December 1941.

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