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akademie der
bildenden künste
wienKUPFERSTICH
KABINETT

zu Gast im

THEATER
MUSEUM

Carlo Naya (1816–1882)

Venice in early photographs

6 September – 25 November 2018



Venice, St Mark's Basilica, Quadriga of Bronze Horses over the Central Porch,
Negative before 1864, print before 1893, albumen paper print
mounted on card

The first showcase exhibition solely dedicated to photography explores the third major collecting area (together with drawings and prints) of the Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Today, although the collection has approx. 22,000 photographic prints on paper, these holdings are little known and barely researched.

The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna began collecting photography in 1855. The photographs range from city vistas and views of historic buildings to landscapes, studies of 'types' in traditional costumes from around the world, art works, and flora and fauna.

The works by Carlo Naya (Tronzano Vercellese near Turin 1816–1882 Venice) belong to the larger sets of prints in the collection by renowned photographers.



Venice, Ponte di Rialto,
Negative 1857–1864, print before 1893, albumen paper print
mounted on card

After studying law in Pisa and several years travelling extensively through Italy, Europe and Mediterranean countries, Naya settled for a time in Istanbul before opening his first studio in Venice in 1857. From an amateur photographer, he developed into one of nineteenth-century Italy's leading travel, architecture and art photographers. His scenes of Venice, its palaces, bridges, squares, and canals, defined the city's image for decades. The hand-coloured Venice views are especially picturesque. In some cases, particularly where the colour was applied thickly, it is even difficult to identify them as photographs. Naya's views of Venice were highly prized by his contemporaries and won numerous awards and medals at World Exhibitions.

The Graphic Collection has nearly 100 of Carlo Naya's photographic prints of buildings and



*Venice, vista from the Campanile with the Punta della Dogana, the Church of
Santa Maria della Salute and Giudecca island,*
Negative before 1864, albumen paper print mounted on card

art works in Venice. Acquired by the Academy in the late nineteenth century, they provided visual materials for art students. Naya not only photographed the must-see sights for every Venice tourist, but also art works in palaces and churches, or in museums such as the Galleria dell'Accademia. Hardly surprisingly, since the photographic collection also aimed to provide an encyclopaedic range of models for study, most of these photographic prints show art works. In the exhibition, Naya's black-and-white photographs of paintings are exemplified by prints of three ceiling murals in the Doge's Palace. Naya's specialities also included photographs from high buildings, such as the Campanile (bell-tower) on St Mark's Square. The exhibition also shows one of these views in a total of 17 works providing an initial insight into Naya's oeuvre.

Biography

- 1816 Born on 2 August in Tronzano Vercellese near Turin
- 1837–1840 Studies law in Pisa
- 1839 While staying in Paris, he learns about the new daguerreotype technique and acquires his first photography equipment
- 1840 With his brother, he starts out on an extensive tour of Italy, Europe and the Mediterranean countries
- 1845 Opens a photographic studio with his brother in the Pera district of Istanbul
- 1856 His brother Giovanni dies in Istanbul; Carlo stays briefly in Piedmont
- 1857 Moves to Venice, marries Ida Lessiak from a Hungarian family, and opens his first business at Campo San Maurizio 2758 e
- 1862 Wins a Great Medal at London's Great Exhibition
- 1864 First catalogue of photographs; publishes 13 photographs of Giotto's famous frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua before, during and after restoration
- 1867 Gold medal at the World's Fair in Paris
- 1868 Moves to the Procuratie buildings on St Mark's Square, his business gradually growing to occupy five houses and employ over 20 staff
- 1869 Gold medal at a photography exhibition in Groningen
- 1873 Takes part in Vienna's World's Exhibition
- 1882 Dies 30 May in Venice

The business is continued until 1918 by his widow, by Tommaso Filippi, one of Naya's assistants, and by his widow's second husband Antonio Dal Zotto.



Paolo Cagliari known as Paolo Veronese (1528–1588):
The Dialectic, c. 1575–1577, Doge's Palace, Sala del Collegio,
Negative 1870–1872, print before 1893, albumen paper print
mounted on card



The Doge's Palace, Sala del Senato with paintings by Jacopo Tintoretto and his workshop,
Negative 1864–1872, print before 1893, albumen paper print
mounted on card

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue (in German).
All images © The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
Text: Julia M. Nauhaus; translation: Andrew Boreham, Berlin



St Mark's Square with Basilica and Clock Tower,
Negative before 1864, print before 1893, albumen paper print
mounted on card, hand coloured



Venice, Riva degli Schiavoni waterfront with Carlo Naya's studio,
Print 1868–1893, albumen paper print mounted on card,
hand coloured

Title image: *Venice, Doge's Palace with the Ponte della Paglia*,
Print after 1877, albumen paper print mounted on card



The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna hosted by the Theaternuseum

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