

Domenico Bartolini

Italian painter
(1827-1884)

Bartolini was born in Rome. He was a very prolific author, but little is known about his real body of works and his training. Certainly he was influenced by the Purism of Francesco Coghetti (1801-1875) and therefore he directed his production towards orders of religious origin.

Despite this, in his second studio in via Condotti, he also created small genre works. Little is known of his biographical data: most likely he marries Signora Margherita Valentini from Rieti with whom he has two children. He died in Rome in 1884.

Training

Some historians speculate on an apprenticeship from Francesco Coghetti. He almost certainly attends the Academy of San Luca where he follows the drawing lessons of Tommaso Minardi (1787-1871). It is precisely for the drawing class that Domenico Bartolini ranks second in the school competition of 1837.

The Purist language

From 1840 to 1854 Domenico Bartolini rented a studio in via Margutta 42 and devoted himself to genre painting. He always keeps in mind the lesson of Francesco Coghetti who had made purist language his main means of expression.

The model was Raphael before the creation of the Disputa, therefore a young Raphael who uses light colors, a precise contour line, symmetry and monumental rendering of the figures.

Examples of this production linked to the more academic Purism are: *Two Capuchins intent on a sacred reading*, *A woman painted in the style of Altovito*, *Breakfast*, *La Palomba* and a *dying Abel*.

Works

Pope Pius IX after admiring the works just mentioned by the Society of Amateurs and Culturers of Fine Arts in Rome, begins to appreciate Bartolini very much and decides to commission him two canvases: *The martyrdom of San Bartolomeo* and *San Vincenzo Ferreri which he preaches in Spain*.

In 1856 he took care of frescoing the church of Sant'Isidoro while it was being restored.

Decorate the eight panels of the dome with *Santa Maria Vergine*, *Sant'Antonio da Padova*, *San Bernardino da Siena*, *Fra' Giovanni Duns Scotus*, *San Ludovico*, *San Leonardo da Porto Maurizio*, *San Bonaventura*, *San Francesco*. Instead, in the vault of the high altar it represents *Prayer in the olive grove*.

In 1858 Bartolini changed studio and moved to via Condotti 25. A small office on the second floor of a building where he started the production of genre paintings and skits drawn from everyday life.

Most likely between the late 1850s and early 1860s he worked outside Rome, particularly in the Sabina area.

In 1862 he worked for the Basilica Ostiense, making *Saint Paul in Jerusalem excited by the angels to stand firm in the faith* and *Saint Paul in front of the principal Felice in Caesarea del Sud*.

From this moment until the early 1880s we have little information on Bartolini's production. The first certain data in fact date back to around 1880, when the Superintendency for the excavations of Rome entrusted him with the task of processing color copies of the frescoes belonging to the Etruscan tombs in Corneto.

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Translated from:

<https://www.valutazionearte.it/artisti/bartolini-domenico/>