

THE GALLERY OF PALAZZO DEGLI ALBERTI

The Gallery takes its name from the aristocratic palace that houses it, the ancient "Casone degli Alberti" which, dating back to the 13th century, from 1870 was the headquarters of Cassa di Risparmio e Depositi di Prato, founded in 1830 and an integral part of the social and cultural life of the city. Today it is home to a branch of Intesa Sanpaolo and the new Gallery dedicated to the works preserved in the building.

The palace maintains its late 15th century appearance which can be dated to the renovation work that was probably carried out by the wealthy Bardi family of Vernio, whose 16th century-style coat adorns the exterior corner of the building.

The need for additional space led to the radical restoration of the building between 1870 and 1872 with the palace extended along Via dell'Altopascio and towards Via Banchelli integrating other buildings. Further modernisation works took place over the following decades, with the work in the 1930s that coincided with the launch of the bank's art collection particularly notable, until Palazzo degli Alberti became identified with Cariprato itself.

Over time, following the acquisition of works by artists from Prato and Tuscany, as well as the purchase of incredibly valuable paintings by Caravaggio, Giovanni Bellini and Filippo Lippi in the 1970s, in 1984 a museum area was opened to the public in the rooms of the Gallery on the piano nobile of Palazzo Alberti, later undergoing renovation in 2005.

In 2003 Cariprato was acquired by Banca Popolare di Vicenza and in 2010 was merged into the company. In 2017 Palazzo degli Alberti became part of Intesa Sanpaolo's architectural heritage and the former Cariprato collection became part of the assets of Banca Popolare di Vicenza S.p.A. in L.C.A..

In line with the principles of Progetto Cultura, Intesa Sanpaolo, which houses the works in Palazzo degli Alberti, strongly championed the reopening of the Gallery as an important piece of historic, artistic and cultural heritage.