

SAN PETER MARTYR (SAN GIORGETTO) – VERONA

Part of the “Save the Art” project, are volunteers in Verona who take care of the Church of S. Peter Martyr (San Pietro Martire), better known as S. Giorgetto. The association allows free entry and organizes various events to make it more well known. We give explanations of the chapel restoration of the frescos.

History of San Giorgetto

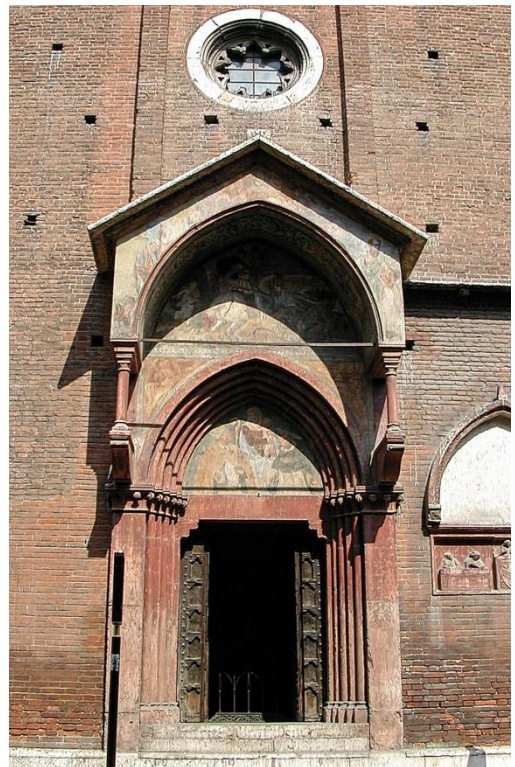
Place of worship historically dedicated to the teutonic knights, it was probably built around 1320 as a place to pray for the Dominicans. The little church, after 20 years, was giving to the teutonic company of the Brandeburg knights. The function was a chapel dedicated to the worship of Saint George. The knights, around mid 1300, unfortunately we have very little information, had been sent to Verona to help Cangrande II. After defeating the enemy, the knights were moved to the Veronese Palace of the Eagle opposite the church of San Giorgetto. It was thanks to this victory that the little oratory was granted. The teutonic company commissioned a series of frescoes inside it.

From the beginning, the Church became a landmark for the knights. Unfortunately the information of the historical period starting from the death of Cangrande II are just a few. Anyway we know for sure that the church was occupied by other groups of knights. It is possible to deduce this from the presence of the second cycle of frescoes which include soldiers with different and new armor. Later, the church was an important meeting place for the prosperous and rich Veronese bourgeoisie.

In May 1424 the Church of S. Giorgetto was officially sold to the group of St. Peter Martyr, which still has the same name. Unfortunately, towards the beginning of the 1800s, the Dominican friars formally and permanently sent away.

We know that after this event, the church was were used by the Napoleon’s soldiers as a horse stable. Later it was abandoned for some decades.

Finally the church was used again for its proper function and also as a school when all the frescos were completely covered. That’s why today the walls of the church are completely covered by little holes made when the plaster was applied to the walls.



Only in the last few years were the frescos, which were under the second layer of plaster, re-discovered and brought to light.

The hunt of the unicorn by Giovanni Maria Falconetto



The hunt of the unicorn by Giovanni Maria Falconetto was painted during the occupation of the German imperial troops (1509 - 1517) on commission by two German nobles, counselors of the Emperor Maximilian. The motives of the fresco, that at first sight seem to be mixed with no order, are mostly symbols of the Virgin or motives of the Nordic Middle Ages. It's possible that Falconetto received exact orders on the composition of the symbols. Probably he had a drawing or painting as a draft. In fact we can find similarities between the Hunt a Swiss tapestry. Indeed this could be the model for the painting Falconetto's. The theme of the "Hunt of the Unicorn" is rather rare in Italy.

The frescos minors

Along the walls of the Church there are numerous minor frescos representing saints and knights, the work of unknown Veronese artists.

