



Elena Franco: Imago Pietatis

Studio Cenacchi

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For her exhibition “Imago Pietatis” (images of the passion of Jesus) Elena Franco researched in the historic archive of the Mount of piety of Bologna, today preserved by the Fondazione del Monte of Bologna and Ravenna. Here conserved are documents of the Bolognese Mount of piety, a kind of a charity pawnbroker.

Elena Franco focussed on the paintings situated at the cutting edges of around hundred volumes. In this special case, they are decorated with illustrations of the passion of Jesus or symbols for it, for example the passionflower. The artist photographed these pictures and created an artist book in an edition of three copies, inspired by the form of the original volumes. One of the originals is also visible in the exhibition, thanks to the generous support of the Fondazione del Monte.

Moreover, Elena Franco created other works, which refer to the archives collection. On view there are posters with single images, photos of the passion-plant or printed cloth. As a whole, the exhibition is not a documentation of a historic heritage, but a contemporary reinterpretation, which makes the ancient documents accessible for us. Convenient to this exhibition, the ones who passed by the Oratorio dell Spirito Santo during the White Night could watch a film about printing and bookbinding in ancient times.

