



Le Corbusier Travels, objects and collections

Pinacoteca Agnelli, Turin
27 April – 5 September 2021

The **Pinacoteca Agnelli** in Turin finally reopens its doors to the public with an exhibition entitled “*Le Corbusier. Travels, objects and collections*”, dedicated to the Franco-Swiss architect, father of the Modern Movement.

To ensure the safety of visitors, the exhibition will comply with current health regulations and admission will be by means of restricted access, with compulsory reservation through the Pinacoteca website.

The exhibition itinerary covers the entire third floor of the Pinacoteca and traces Le Corbusier’s life, centred on his continuous search for ideas and inspiration. His life is illustrated in the exhibition through objects, drawings and photographs.

The objects on display were rediscovered and promoted following the Fondation’s restoration of Le Corbusier’s Paris apartment in Rue Nungesser et Coli. They consist of stones, pieces of wood, shells, metal objects, glass and other materials that he collected as “objets à réaction poétique” (objects with a poetic reaction) able to trigger the creative process in him. For example, the crab shell on display in the exhibition gave rise to the idea for the famous roof of Ronchamp Cathedral. Alongside these objects, the paper archive of sources of inspiration will also be on display, comprising newspaper cuttings, postcards and train tickets preserved by Le Corbusier and meticulously classified by subject.

The exhibition includes several photographs and sketches of cars and means of transport. “We know that Le Corbusier was a great car enthusiast”, explain Ginevra Elkann and Marcella Pralormo, respectively President and Director of the Pinacoteca. “He collected a lot of material on cars,” they continue, “probably because it helped him realise one of his greatest dreams: to design a car. It was a challenge he pursued for a long time and with great energy.”

One section is entirely dedicated to Le Corbusier’s travels, here too illustrated with tickets, tourist brochures and postcards of monuments and landscapes that the artist loved to collect and carefully preserve, in a way not very different to the way they are displayed to the public today.

Particular attention is paid to the three trips that Le Corbusier made to Turin: in 1902, at the age of sixteen, on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition at the Promotrice delle Belle Arti where the future architect had exhibited a clock; in 1934, when he was photographed in a Balilla car on the Lingotto rooftop track and the last, in 1961, when he was invited by ICOM to give a speech on the theme of the ideal museum at the association’s annual conference during the celebrations of Italia61.

The role of the artist-curator Cristian Chironi is central to this exhibition; he has not limited himself merely to selecting and arranging the collection in the exhibition space, but will also be creating educational activities, talking about his project *My house is a Le Corbusier*, an itinerant and self-managed residency programme that includes stays in Le Corbusier's homes around the world.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Corraini with graphic design by Studio Radl.

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Le Corbusier

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Pinacoteca Agnelli

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