

## **Pietro Selvatico (1803-1880) and The Reawakening of the Arts in Nineteenth-Century Italy**

Through his writings and dedication, Pietro Selvatico (Padua, 1803-1880) was the most influential modernizer of the Italian Arts System during the Risorgimento. Descendant of an ancient aristocratic family, he had a pragmatic approach, as an art historian, publicist, or cultural politician, always attentive to reform projects and innovative concepts developed in other countries such as France and Germany. Although political prejudices tended to marginalize him after the establishment of the Italian Kingdom, Selvatico's legacy in the Arts System can be recognized throughout the first decades of the twentieth century.

On the occasion of an International conference held at the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (claiming Selvatico amongst his members since 1872), this forgotten important actor of the Italian Ottocento will be thoroughly studied. Cross-disciplinary research conducted by the IUAV University (Venice), the Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa) and the University of Udine, will highlight Selvatico's role in the fields of art teaching and cultural heritage, and the use of "modern" media (photography, journals) in his writings. The conference, structured in eight highly interdisciplinary sections, will discuss Selvatico's xenophilia along with its political implications, his approach to traditional Art genres, and early interest in the applied Arts, his geographic and journalistic fields and his use of didactic and analytic instruments for popularizing art in nineteenth-century Italian society.