

DescriVedendo Duomo Museum

“Galeazzo Maria Sforza”

This work presumably portrays Galeazzo Maria Sforza, Duke of Milan, and was sculpted by an unknown Milanese artist around 1480.

The statue is 191 centimetres high, 75 centimetres wide and 61 centimetres deep. It appears even higher as it is placed on a base around 60 centimetres high inside the room dedicated to the Sforza era.

It was created in the round in Candoglia marble, the same material used for the Duomo and all its decorations. The style is realistic: forms and proportions reproduce what would normally be perceived by the human eye.

The subject is a young nobleman, with refined features, standing and dressed in military armour, presumably Galeazzo Maria Sforza, albeit idealised since the somatic features do not correspond with those found in other portraits.

Galeazzo Maria Sforza's face is that of a young man of between 25 and 30 years of age, slightly turned to the left with the gaze focused on an undefined point in front of him. He has regular, delicate features. The expression is serene and the lips, held closely together, hint at a smile. ...

The face is framed by long curly hair that covers the forehead with a fringe and then falls down behind the shoulders, hugging the face and also covering the ears. To the rear on the head, but not visible from the front, a hat is placed on the hair. His right arm remains at

his side down to the elbow and, from there, it protrudes slightly in front, grasping a roll of paper held diagonally in his hand. The left arm is held away from the side and is turned forward at the elbow; the hand is held with the palm turned upwards, thumb and forefinger gently extended and the remaining three fingers slightly bent. The left hip protrudes considerably compared to the axis of the torso. This would seem to indicate that the weight of the body is being supported by the left leg, upright and planted on the ground, while the right is more relaxed, held slightly forward with the foot barely resting on the base, the tip protruding from it.

Galeazzo Maria Sforza wears an elaborate and elegant surcoat, that is, a part of the armour made up of a long-sleeved jerkin, high-necked and tightly fitting at the chest, with metal scales and decorated with ornamental motifs that highlight the lines of the pectoral muscles and descends at the centre to below the hips. From the waist to the middle of the thigh, the armour is made up of a sort of skirt with rectangular plates. The legs are protected from above the knee to the ankle with a pair of "greaves", that is, high reinforced leggings, decorated with two side bows. Finally, pointed shoes can be seen on the feet with ornamental herringbone patterns.

The armour does not bestow a mighty appearance on the subject but rather covers him with elegance.

The statue long remained outside the Duomo and was severely damaged during the bombardments of the Second World War. Following restoration, it once again has the uniform light pink colour of Candoglia marble, although, compared to the original colour scheme (ranging from white to grey to pink), it has taken on yellow-ochre hues due to the atmospheric agents to which it was long exposed.



The morphological description drawn up and validated between September and November 2023, **certified by Descrivendo**, was created by Team Descrivendo with the National Association of the Visually Impaired ETS, in collaboration with Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano.



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