

**COMING TO CINEMAS**  
**THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF ONE OF THE MOST**  
**ECCENTRIC ARTISTS OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

**SEGANTINI – BACK TO NATURE**

**a docu-film by Francesco Fei**  
**on one of the most brilliant, solitary artists of 19th Century Europe**

He was an eccentric, a loner, a “mountain bear” who could deeply feel the magnetic strength of the Alps, just as well as the pulsating energy contained in the big cities of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Giovanni Segantini (1858-1899) was one of the great Divisionist artists, an amazing painter with a wild, impetuous nature, but at the same time poetic, gracious and meticulous.

Two years after the exhibition at the Palazzo Reale in Milan, which celebrated the impressive beauty of his too long neglected works and drew over 200,000 visitors in 4 months, it's now time for the big screen to honour one of the most important 19<sup>th</sup> Century Italian artists, Segantini, a painter ever poised between divisionism and symbolism.

After winning the Art Section Audience award at the last Biografilm Festival in Bologna, **Segantini, Back to Nature** directed by **Francesco Fei**, comes to cinemas with **Gioconda Segantini, Annie-Paule Quinsac, Franco Marrocco, Romano Turrini** and a special performance by **Filippo Timi**. This docu-film will give audiences a chance to discover the extraordinary, unusual story of Giovanni Segantini and his innate capacity to see nature as a fount of artistic, spiritual inspiration. It guides us through works of art such as **Spinning** at the Kunsthhaus in Zurich, **Mothers, Love at the Springs of Life, the Angel of Life** from the Gallery of Modern Art in Milan, **Midday in the Alps** and the famous **Alpine Triptych** in St. Moritz.

Segantini was born of humble origins in Arco di Trento, Northern Italy. His life followed a long, tortuous path and, despite his untimely death aged just 41, he would become one of the most authentic Italian painters of the Nineteenth Century. The documentary traverses the streets, villages, valleys and alpine landscapes that marked the work, and the spirit, of an artist who succeeded in making a great impression on Vasiliy Kandinsky (the latter compared him to Rossetti and Böcklin, saying that though seemingly the most material of the three, "*he selected defined, natural objects, often painting them with the minutest realism and ... he could create abstract figures. For this reason, perhaps, he is spiritually the most non-material of the trio.*"). The film also portrays the image of a complex man, reconstructing the scenarios of his life, showing his works, his colours and artistic choices, as well as examining the thoughts and memories of those who knew and studied him. Filippo Timi's portrayal of Segantini, lending his voice and giving a face to the Artist in some of the historical reconstructions specially made for the Film, will show the intensity of the content of the painter's letters and his feelings. Among the special features of the film are appearances made by the Artist's granddaughter **Gioconda Segantini** and contributions by **Annie-Paul Quinsac**, the foremost art expert on Segantini, by **Franco Marrocco**, director of the Accademia di Brera and **Romano Turrini**, an expert on the history of Arco.

Director Francesco Fei explains: "*Visiting Milan's Modern Art Gallery, I discovered and immediately fell in love with Segantini's paintings, because they have a unique, personal, generating force about them. They exude all the energy of nature in its most intimate essence, and the presence of man is perceived in complete and total comparison. The message conveyed is both classical and extremely contemporary. The story of Segantini's life also has the same power, the same attraction. He was born into a poor family, orphaned at the age of five, unable to read or write, locked up in reform school aged 10, stateless, with no citizenship but with the sheer will power and the ability to*

*become one of the most important artists in European symbolism. Furthermore, with his partner, Bice Bugatti, he began a truly beautiful love story; and in the small cemetery of Maloja, where they rest in eternal peace together, the following words can be read, «Art and Love conquer Time». Segantini used landscape as the basis for highly symbolic, modern, artistic research, achieving results that raised him to a worldwide level. Not surprisingly, he is internationally considered to be one of the greatest Symbolist artists, on a par with Kandinsky, Klimt and Klee, who were great admirers of his art.”.*

Produced by Apnea Film and Diaviva, ***Segantini, Back to Nature*** was jointly written by Francesco Fei, Federica Masin and Roberta Bonazza. In collaboration with Sky Arte HD, the project was developed with co-producers 'Provincia autonoma di Trento' (the Regional Independent Authority of Trento), the Town Council of Arco and the support of the Fondazione Lombardia Film Commission. The film was made in collaboration with MAG, Alto Garda Museum, Milan City Council, Palazzo Reale, Skira Editore, and thanks also go to the Cassa Rurale Alto Garda, Garda Trentino Tourist Board and Feba, in partnership with the Modern Art Gallery in Milan, the National Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery in Rome, Pinacoteca di Brera Milan, Maspes Gallery Milan, under the sponsorship of the Brera Academy, Milan.

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