



Antonio Mancini: Nineteenth-Century Italian Master (Philadelphia Museum of Art)

By Ulrich W. Hiesinger

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One of Italy's greatest modern painters, Antonio Mancini (1852–1930) is best known for his daring and innovative painting methods. This overview of his career—the first comprehensive study in English—follows upon the Philadelphia Museum of Art's recent acquisition of fifteen major oil paintings and pastels by Mancini, including the famous *Il Saltimbanco* (1877–78), all of which are included in this beautiful volume.

Mancini's paintings are at once realistic and visionary, and they span a career that brought him from the legendary slums of Naples to Paris, Rome, and English country houses. Of particular interest is Mancini's relevance to the American art world, where he was once a much-discussed controversial figure, supported by a small group of American patrons and artists before becoming famous in Italy. John Singer Sargent is said to have called Mancini the greatest living painter.

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About the Author

Ulrich W. Hiesinger is a guest curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

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