

"Colors of water"

About the exhibition

FLERS CASTLE MUSEUM (NORMANDY)

May 19 - November 20, 2021

Ouest France, August 2021

Venice's canals painted freely

Summer in Flers Museum (Normandy)

This Saturday, the editors help us to discover an oil painting by Giovanni Migliara. The *vedute*, meaning « views » in Italian, *veduta* in the singular, are picturesque views of Venice. They were multifarious in the 18th century, the second golden age of the seaside city and stage the laguna, the canals, the typical streets, the monuments and the daily or festive life. These *vedute* are the opposite of the large decorative paintings in churches or palazzi depicting religious or mythological scenes.

Giovanni Migliara is a painter famous for his views of architectural representations but his celebrity is mainly based on his views of Venice, and yet the artist has never set foot in Venice, except at the end of his career, and a majority of his paintings inspired by Canaletto. He interprets these views freely and along the canal, he adds monuments belonging to other Italian cities, thus stressing the Gothic character of Venice.

Periods confronting each other

This oil painting by Giovanni Migliara echoes Violaine Vieillefond's works, a modern artist intent on revisiting the « *Vedute* ». A lover of Venice and of the city's painters, a hundred of her *vedute* on paper was realized simply by pouring water on Canson paper prints of photographs taken in Venice during her many stays there. These drops of water dilute the ink of the photograph and give an impression of submersion of the Italian city. The urban landscape is drowned in water, pointing out at the same time to the danger of the rising of waters threatening the very life of seaside city.