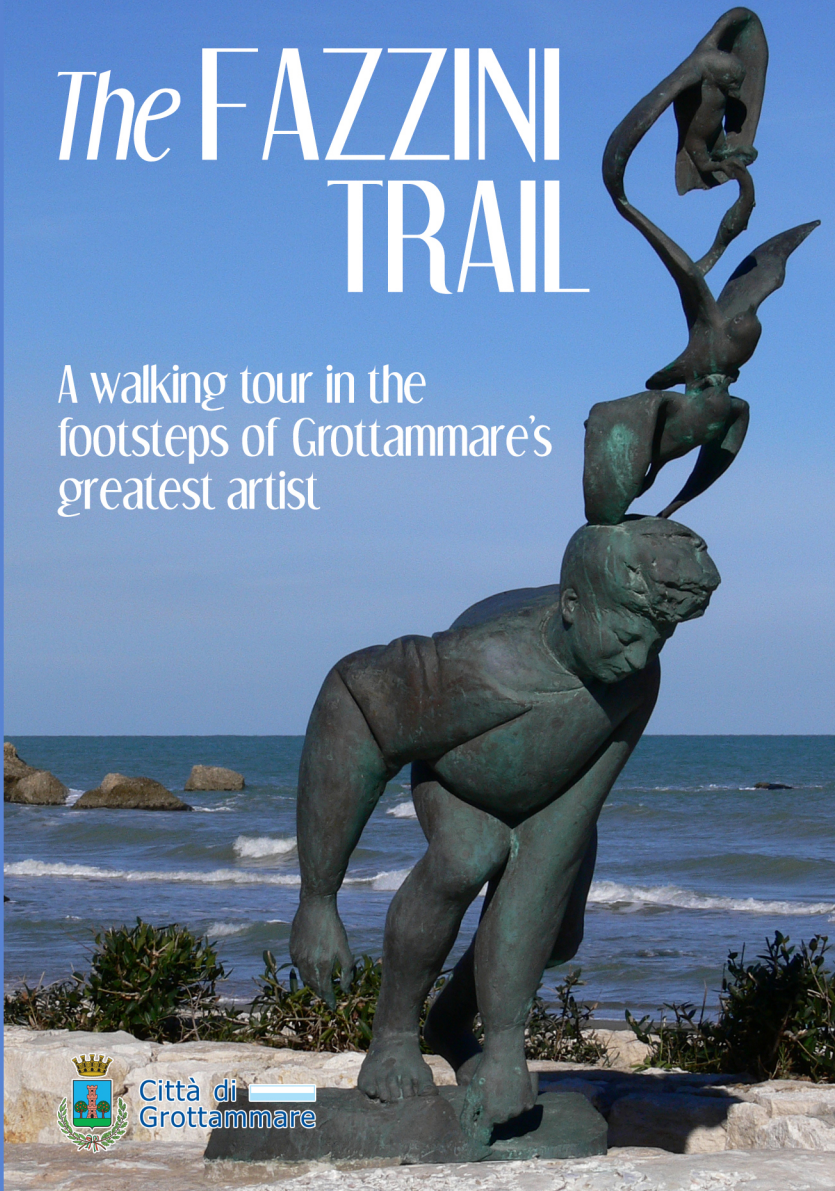
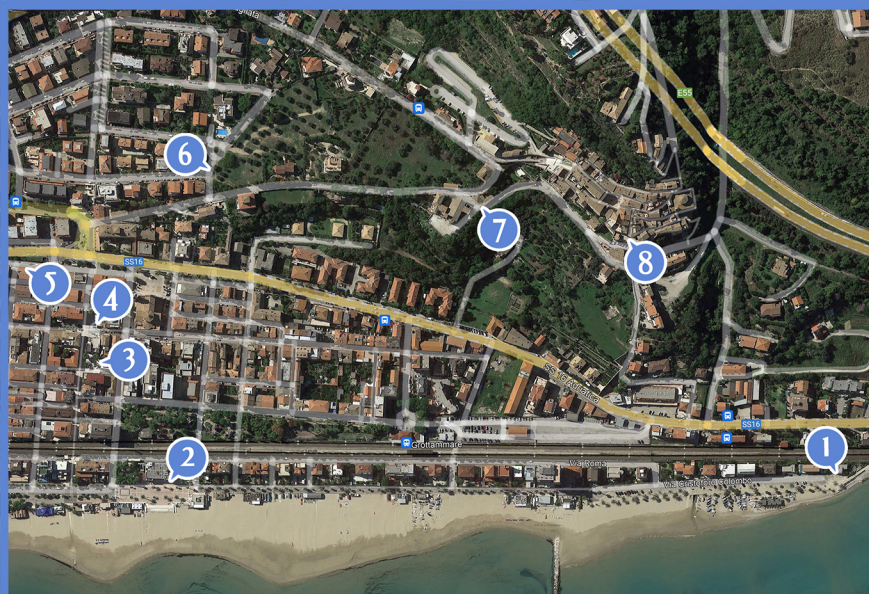


The FAZZINI TRAIL

A walking tour in the
footsteps of Grottammare's
greatest artist



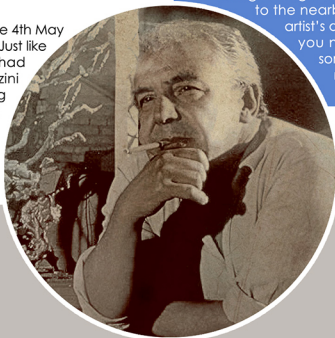
Città di 
Grottammare



PERICLE FAZZINI

"I pictured the Adriatic inside my sculptures": this is how Pericle Fazzini summarized his relationship with his native marine environment during the last years of his life. He was mainly attracted to the spontaneous and basic elements of this environment, the ones that matched his peculiar vision of nature, which he often interpreted as a metaphor for the human condition. It was a source of inspiration for many of his works, including the majestic *Resurrection* commissioned by Paul VI for the Hall of the Pontifical Audiences in the Vatican City.

Fazzini was born in Grottammare on the 4th May 1913 into a family of wood-craftsmen. Just like those artists that in earlier centuries had joined a master to learn a craft, Fazzini was introduced to furniture carving techniques and the understanding of fine materials at an early age.



He died in Rome on 4th December 1987, where he was greeted as **one of the best 20th century sculptors**. He spent his life between Grottammare and Rome so, not surprisingly, most of his works are preserved in these two cities.

In Grottammare, it is possible to admire Fazzini's works by visiting the eight sites along a walking tour from the coast to the nearby hills, that display every area of the artist's activity. **There are no admission fees:** all you need is a comfortable pair of shoes, some time on your hands and the wish to retrace the great artist's long career.

THE BOY WITH THE SEAGULLS

1

Via Cristoforo Colombo, 133

The Boy with the Seagulls, a bronze cast figure produced by Fazzini in 1986, is a copy of the original wooden sculpture created between 1940 and 1944. It is situated at the entrance to the pedestrian and cycle path that connects Grottammare and Cupra Marittima, blending in perfectly with the wide natural skyline and surrounding areas. It can be considered one of the artist's most cheerful works as it reflects the unique lightheartedness that characterised many of Fazzini's works, and that led poet Giuseppe Ungaretti to describe him as *lo scultore del vento* ("the wind sculptor").



MIC

2

Piazza Kursaal, 3

Walking along the seafront, the trail leads to the second site on this tour, the *Museo dell'Illustrazione Contemporanea* (MIC), which displays several drawings and etchings by Fazzini. As well as focusing on his illustrations, the museum offers a comparison between the master of Grottammare and other preeminent modern and contemporary artists from the Piceno cultural area, such as Adolfo de Carolis and Tullio Pericoli.



DANTE'S MEDAL

3

Piazza Dante Alighieri

In Piazza Dante Alighieri, locally known as "Piazza dell'Angioletto", due to the figure of a cherub represented in the central fountain, there is a double travertine slab displaying the medal that Fazzini created in 1965 to commemorate the 700th anniversary of Dante's birth. As well as testifying the artist's deep connection with the greatest Italian poet, this work unveils Fazzini's little-known mastery of commemorative medals, which he conceived as precious miniature sculptures. Several of his medals may be found in the "Torione della Battaglia" Museum in Grottammare (site 8).



METAMORPHOSIS

4

Piazza Pericle Fazzini

In the neighbouring square, called Piazza Fazzini, you will discover the sketch of an unrealised work called *Monumento a Kennedy*, later named *Metamorphosis* by Fazzini himself, who donated it to the city of Grottammare in 1984. This work is composed of a vertically ripped up bronze slab, which is about 3.5m tall. It testifies Fazzini's attempt to create art by removing material. At the top of the piece, on its west-facing side, it is possible to identify a hint of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's profile among the empty spaces.



THE FAZZINI FUND, INSIDE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

5

📍 Via Giacomo Matteotti, 41

Before walking up to the old town centre, a brief detour leads to the local public library called "Mario Rivosecchi", which hosts the fund called *Pericle Fazzini - Una città per un artista*, established in 2015 and still growing. Mainly made up of rare art books and exhibition catalogues, it represents the widest public library collection dedicated to Fazzini.



THE PORTRAIT OF MARIO RIVOSECCHI

6

📍 Parco della Madonnina

Walking up to the so-called "Vecchio Incasato", the old town centre of Grottole, not far from Parco della Madonnina, you can admire the *Portrait of Mario Rivosecchi*, another important work by Fazzini. It is a sculpture dedicated to the contemporary poet and art historian who discovered Fazzini's talent as a young boy, introduced him to Roman cultural circles and closely followed the artist in his first artistic steps.



VIA CRUCIS IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

7

📍 Via San'Agostino, 32

Walking up towards the old town, you will soon come across the Church of Saint Augustine, which hosts the first work Fazzini donated to his native town, a bronze *Via Crucis*. The church is situated near the artist's last local residence, which he renovated himself in the 1970s. It can be observed, together with its surrounding park, from the portico in Piazza Peretti in the centre of the "Vecchio Incasato".



"TORRIONE DELLA BATTAGLIA" MUSEUM

8

📍 Largo Il Tarpato

The highest site on this walking tour is the *Museo Torrione della Battaglia*, set inside an evocative 16th-century fortress. It contains sketches, bronze and silver sculptures, drawings, prints, medals and other precious gold objects donated by the artist to Lisa Schneider, his model and co-worker. With the only exception of the family collection, this is the richest existing collection of works by Fazzini. One of the most notable works is the first sketch for the *Resurrection*, which helps us understand the origin of this important work of art commissioned by Paul VI for the Hall of the Pontifical Audiences in the Vatican City.



The walking tour covers about 2,200 metres (7,218 feet).
There is a 275mt(902ft)-difference in height between the lowest and the highest sites.

Sites 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are suitable for visitors with impaired mobility.
The museums included in the walking tour are fully accessible to visitors with disabilities.

The walking tour is completely free of charge, including admission to museums.

We advise visitors to check the following opening times: MIC, Museo Torrione della Battaglia, Biblioteca Comunale, Chiesa di S. Agostino.



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