

Pordenone, Monument to the Fallen

At the end of the First World War, to celebrate eternally the memory of all the young lives broken by the tragic events of the war, innumerable monuments to the Fallen were made throughout Italy. The works, placed in the squares and in the gardens, had the forms of votive torches, cippi, personifications of the Victory or of the Fatherland, likenesses of infantry or heroic soldiers. Also the city of Pordenone had its monument to the Fallen, whose execution was entrusted in 1925 to the artist Aurelio Mistruzzi. The monument was inaugurated in April 1929 in the presence of Prince Umberto di Savoia and Italo Balbo. In 1973 the fence surrounding the building was built. The monument of Pordenone still today is located inside the gardens of Piazzale Ellero and is bordered by a continuous boxwood hedge. It consists of a rectangular stone platform formed by steps, with the raised central part containing a box with the dedication to the Fallen. In the lower part there is a fountain with a large shell-shaped basin surmounted by a mask depicting a jellyfish. At the centre is the sculptural group formed "by Italy that welcomes under its shield the heroes who offered sacrifice". With these same words, Aurelio Mistruzzi described the plaster sketch of the monument. On either side of the central group the sculptor also depicted the two rivers sacred to the homeland, the Isonzo, disarmed by treason, and the Piave, with the crowned oak helmet, the palm of sacrifice and victory and the gladius firm in his fist. Currently the monument lacks the effigy of the winged Victory that was in the left hand of Italy and the sword held by the right hand of the Piave is also missing.

Curated by: Dr. Martina Solerte and Dr. Nicoletta Rigoni
December 2018