



YELLOW HALL

The Yellow Hall was originally part of a room almost seventy metres in length, known as the Gallery of Alexander VII. The gallery no longer exists because in 1812 the French administration, which had taken possession of the Quirinale Palace and was preparing it for the arrival of Napoleon Bonaparte, divided the gallery into three halls, covered over a large part of the frescoes decorating the walls and bricked up all the windows overlooking the courtyard.

Restoration work carried out over recent years has unbricked the windows and unveiled a large part of the 17th Century wall paintings, which were produced between 1656 and 1657 by a group of sixteen painters directed by Pietro da Cortona.

The decoration brought to light by the restoration is on the lower part of the walls, between the windows, where pairs of male figures are depicted next to an altar against an architectural background of columns. Higher up, the columns are cut off by the presence of later decorative elements, carried out in the Napoleonic period, which were superimposed by subsequent papal and Savoy interventions. Restoration is still in progress on this part of the decorations.

Also on the upper section of the walls are paintings of scenes from the Old Testament, which form part of the Baroque cycle. Foremost among these is the large fresco of *Joseph Being Recognized by his Brothers* by Pier Francesco Mola, which hangs on one of the short walls.

Of the Napoleonic decorations this room still conserves a beautiful white and green marble fireplace, embellished with three oval medallions made using the micro mosaic technique.