



edit by Serena Zampolli

Dreaming of the city's shadows

a guide to explore Mantua with children of all ages



WHAT IS MANTOVA PLAYGROUND?

Mantova Playground is a project promoted and supported by the Comune di Mantova and is born with the aim of transforming the city into a playground that children will use to approach the complexity of the world. Workshops, maps, events to help discover the city from unusual and unexpected viewpoints or to rediscover what you already know by suggesting a new perspective.
website mantovaplayground.it **fb** mantovaplayground

Mantova Playground is sponsored by



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Illustrations by Noemi Vola

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FILMS RECOMMENDED BY THE CINEMA DEL CARBONE
Mune - Guardian of the Moon by **Alexandre Heboyan and Benoit Philippon, France, 2014, 90'** Now in their old age, the guardians of the moon and the soon shall designate their successors. The reins of the sun pass to Sohone, who has always been training for this to happen; the guardianship of the moon is unexpectedly entrusted to the small faun Mune, who gets into trouble when the guardian of darkness seeks to steal the sun. Mune and Sohone team up to retrieve the star, helped by the young but brave Glim, who is made from wax and at risk from both heat and cold.
Peter Pan by **Hamilton Luske, Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, Jack Kinney, Usa, 1953, 77'** What happened when you lose your shadow?! Due to this mishap, Peter Pan meets Wendy, John and Michael, three children who strongly believe in the world of fairy tales and never want to grow up. Together with Peter Pan, the lost boys, Tinkerbell and Captain Hook, they will go on some incredible adventures.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE BIBLIOTECA MEDIATECA G. BARATTA

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by **Brian Selznick, Mondadori, 2011**

This is the story of Hugo Cabret, an orphaned child with two dreams: to become a great magician, and to repair the wondrous automaton that his father left behind. Aided by the long shadows of the Parisian night and by his friend Isabelle, he goes on incredible adventures in an attempt at revealing secret identities and a great, forgotten master of cinema comes back to life. A book made up of shadows of the night, the past and mystery...

Ombra by **Suzy Lee, Corraini, 2010**

With a little bit of imagination, a dark, deserted cellar becomes a dense jungle, filled with plants and curious, sometimes quarrelsome animals who are always ready to get involved in new, spellbinding adventures. The pages progress as reflections of a single mirror between reality and imagination.



DREAMING OF THE CITY'S SHADOWS

Shadows haven't got the best reputation. It's possibly due to the innocent cover it provides to the plots of shady individuals. We, however, like to think that they represent the way in which light plays with the world. They are friendly: there is no man, animal, tree or object on earth that they won't keep company. They are precise and even a bit playful: going on a stroll with them through the city is always a pleasure because they always have some nice surprise in store. For our trip through Mantua, we'll use shadows instead of a camera. They're highly efficient machines for the imagination, and we'll use them to take pictures of a city that is hidden, needless to say, in the shadow of itself.



Serena Zampolli Following her degree in cultural heritage conservation, she specialised in art teaching, obtaining her diploma in Metodo Bruno Funari. Convinced of the importance of discovery in teaching, she creates and holds workshops for schools, museums and libraries in Mantua and Milan.



FOLLOW LIKE A SHADOW

€ Cortile delle Pescherie, Palazzo Te
viale Te 13 · +39 0376 323266 · www.palazzote.it

Sponda del lago Superiore

Shadows also mark time, turning into a special kind of clock: a sundial. The gnomon, which is just a stick, casts a shadow which traces the movement of the sun, articulating the passing of the day. You can also be a gnomon, just find some free hours on the shore of the lake.



SHADE... ON TOUR

€ Portici delle Pescherie, Palazzo Te

Our shadow isn't always the same size: in the evening, it's very long but it's extremely short at midday. If there's a ladder, it takes on a strange zigzag form, or it curls "on a fragile palisade" (Montale) Adults can't stop you from touching shadows, and thanks to them, you can even tickle statues! Play with your own shadow and become an actor in the city, Giulio Romano made the porticoes that transform into to perfect stages.

A SHADOW OF WATER

€ Le Peschiere, Palazzo Te

Lungo Rio

Are shadows always black? What happens if water casts a shadow? Mantua is a city surrounded by lakes, rivers, fountains and ponds: it's not difficult to find the shadow of water. Transparent and mobile, it enchants and brings colour to the space. Look at how it casts colours on the loggias in Palazzo Te and on house fronts: bright thoughts are born from shadows.

WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT

Piazza Erbe

It seems that shadows often say to us: "Warning! Not everything is as it seems." Instead of tricking us, like the philosopher Plato thought, perhaps the changing shapes of shadows stimulate the imagination? The city has many details (roofs, windows, ledges, cables, bicycles...) whose shadows can be turned into something else. For example, in Piazza Erbe, there's a rather shy dragon who always tries to hide, only leaving at certain times of the day. To do who knows what? If you look carefully, you can also see some of his friends.

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

📍 Casa del Rigoletto
Piazza Sordello 23 · +39 0376 288208

Piazza Virgiliana

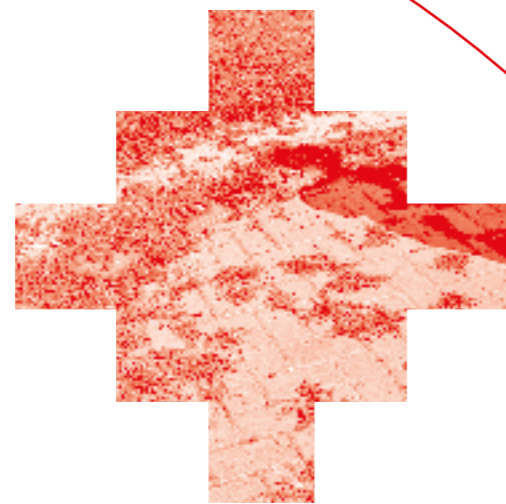
Piazza Dante

The ancients believed that the dead continue to walk the earth in the form of shadows: Mantua is home to a number of famous shadows. If you want to discover who was born or who lived in Mantua, you need to look carefully: they emerge from around corners or hide in gardens, like the jester Rigoletto or the poet Virgil. And Dante, what's he doing here? Did he really come with the devoted Virgil? Always looking for adventure, that pair! Generals, dukes, saints and poets: look for them, and if you want to know more about them, look at the clues carved into the stones.

SHADOW OF HIMSELF

€ Sala del Pisanello, Palazzo Ducale
piazza Sordello 40 · 0376 352100
www.mantovaduale.beniculturali.it

The shadows cast by fire onto the walls of the caves were, perhaps, the first kind of drawing known by prehistoric man. They are reminiscent of the effect you get upon seeing Pisanello's frescoes inside Palazzo Ducale: a battle with no dace in which the silhouettes, like shadows, suggest gestures and movement. Next to the fresco, more delicate than the others, you will see quick red strokes. What are they?? This shadow of a fresco, which has slowly revealed over time, is nothing more than the sinopia, or rather the preparatory drawings that artists put onto walls in preparation for their complex art works. Try to mimic the movements of the knights with your shadow... all you need is a window to let some light in!



IN THE SHADOW OF THE LAST SUN

Giardini di Sottoriva

Shadows do not hold onto things but they can be felt. Who hasn't had a nap or read a book in the cool shade of a tree? Make yourself comfortable in this quiet garden along the river and rest. Don't forget to bring a book!