Ad esempio provando a guardare i dipinti dell’artista con gli occhi dei suoi contemporanei. Per la sensibilità odierna non è scontato sapere che la Natura morta con strumenti musicali e statuetta del museo era in origine affiancata alla Natura morta di cucina ora in collezione privata. Le vicende della storia e del collezionismo hanno separato le due tele che, per qualche mese, torneranno di nuovo una accanto all'altra, a ricom- porare un dittico che agli occhi del loro committente doveva rappresentare una testimonianza straordinaria di entrambe le specialità del pittore. Accostamenti tra due soggetti di natura morta così diversi non erano peraltro rari tra i collezionisti di Baschenis.

In quale genere inserire invece un dipinto come il Ragazzo con canestra di pane e dolciumi? La tela è una delle opere più note dell’artista, una testimonianza unica della sua capacità di interpretare in maniera personale la natura morta e una prova della sua abilità come ritrattista, un aspetto di Baschenis sul quale in molti studiosi si sono interro- gati negli ultimi anni. E inoltre: chi è il giovinetto raffigurato? Un esponente della nobiltà bergamasca? I dettagli dell’abbigliamento non consentono di sostenere una simile ipotesi. Oppure un giovane rappresentante di quel ceto dei commerci che animava la vita della città di Bergamo, come invece sembrerebbe suggerire il cesto ricolmo di pane e dolciumi? In questo margine di incertezza e di elusività si nasconde probabilmente uno dei motivi del fascino del dipinto.

It is doing so, for example, by trying to see his paintings through the eyes of his contemporaries. It cannot be taken for granted that today’s viewer will know that the Museum’s Still Life with Musical Instruments and Statuette was originally accompanied by the Still Life in a Kitchen, now in a private collection. The two paintings have been separated during the course of history but now, for a few months, they will be back together again. Together, they create the diptych that, in the eyes of their original owner, was to represent an outstanding exam- ple of both of the artist’s two main areas of expertise. Placing such different still-life subjects together was actually not rare among Baschenis’s patrons. But what genre does Boy with a Basket of Bread fit into? This canvas is one of the best-known by the artist and a unique example of his ability to interpret still lifes in a highly personal manner. It shows his skill as a portraitist, which is one aspect of Baschenis that many scholars have pondered over in recent years. But then again who is the boy we see? A member of the Bergamo nobility? The details of the clothing would suggest otherwise. Or a young boy of the trading classes that made the city of Bergamo so lively, as the basket filled with bread and pastries would suggest? One of the things that makes this painting so fascinating may well be this degree of uncertainty and elusiveness.
for some months will be able to enjoy these outstanding works of art.

To the two collectors who responded to our invitation with such generosity and enthusiasm goes the gratitude of the whole city, which is now joined by its companion piece, the Natura morta di cucina. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. This can be seen in the Carrara collection's most celebrated examples of kitchen interiors. 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