

## First Floor

### Reception/entrance



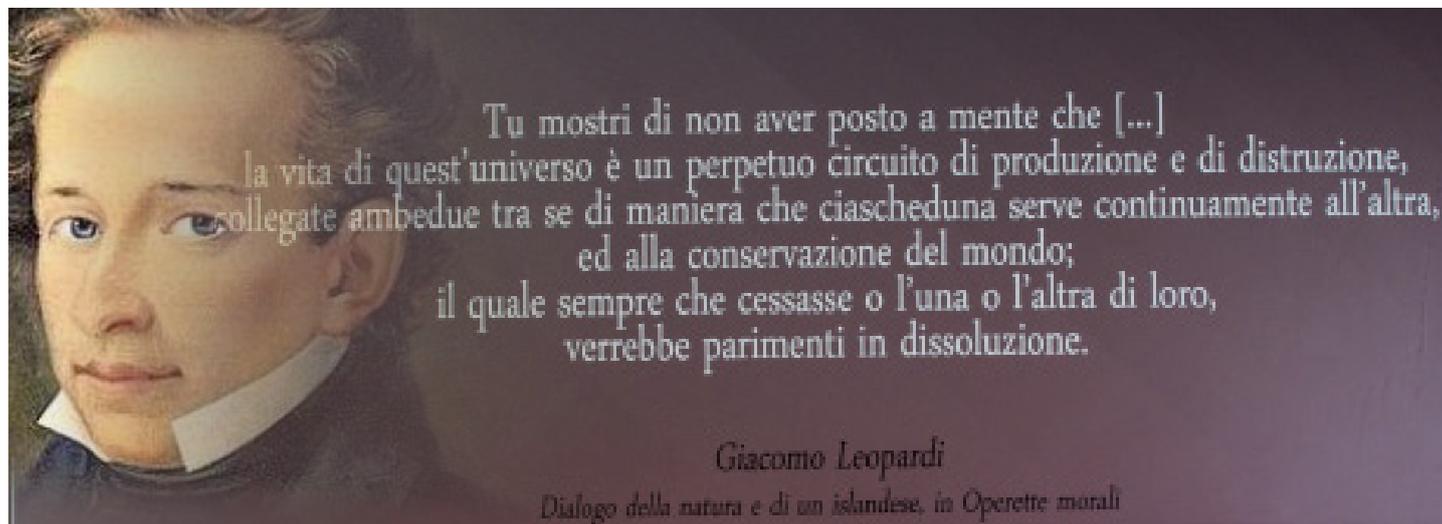
The exhibition space opens onto a bright space featuring a large info desk, where museum operators provide general information about the museum area and the available tools (tablets, brochures, guides, etc...) for a more comprehensive understanding of the museum exhibition. On the shelves, visitors will find our modern cultural heritage; from the bookshop, with our major publications on our territory, to food, wine and local crafts. In this space, the installation begins with the pres-

entation of two basic issues: the meaning of the museum name and the transformation cycle of the mining landscape.

The history of a region and its community is the result of a relentless transformation work. The environment appears to be suspended in an unstable dynamic equilibrium, characterized by the incessant work of destruction and reconstruction of either man or nature, or of both, a theme developed in the museum with a quote from Giacomo Leopardi that recurs at the beginning and at the end of the exhibition itinerary. This transformative action becomes even more relevant when it takes place rapidly – instead of in the long run –, spans a few generations and is induced by man. This happened, for instance, in the Valdarno area around Caviglia, where the territory was first devastated then rebuilt, with such a strong and fast succession of events that a shared cultural re-elaboration of the changes was made difficult for the community. Therefore, the museum acquires special significance, not only is it the place of preservation, but it also becomes the stage of the representation of remembrance. In order not to interrupt the thread



of experience, so that the efforts and achievements of a generation are not dispersed in time. The chosen name is MINE, as explained by the panel with the big picture showing in the foreground the museum complex and the power plant behind it.



#### THE REASON FOR A NAME

According to some linguists the term Mine derives from MINA:

"Soil or rock, whence metals, minerals, combustible and fossilized substances, precious stones or other useful things searched for and removed through underground tunnels are quarried."

The first documents proving the presence of wood coal in Valdarno (Sixteenth Century) are almost contemporary with *The Frenzy of Orlando*, where Ariosto speaks of "mine" meaning "mines".

"As sometimes, where one quarries gold there among the Pannonians or in Iberian mines." (Canto 46, stanza 136).

The other panel, placed on the wall to the right of the entrance, quotes Giacomo Leopardi's reflection.

"Thou forgettest that [...]"

the life of the world is a perpetual cycle of production and destruction, so combined that the one works for the good of the other.

By their joint operation the universe is preserved. If either ceased, the world would dissolve."

(Giacomo Leopardi, *Dialogue between Nature and an Icelander*, from *Operette Morali*).

#### To learn more

G. Leopardi, *Operette morali*, Milano 1940.  
N. Zingarelli (a cura di), *Ludovico Ariosto, Orlando Furioso*, Hoepli, Milano 1973.