

THE INITIATIVE: "Firenze per il Patrimonio in Pericolo. Florence for #Unite4Heritage"

Place: Florence

Time: December 2015 - May 2016

The City of Florence and the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno of Florence, in collaboration with CAMNES - Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies of Florence and other national and international institutions, have decided to create an initiative in support of the UNESCO social media campaign #Unite4Heritage (<<http://www.unite4heritage.org/>>) for the defense of heritage in danger, which is based on a series of events/meetings which will take place in Florence between December 2015 and May 2016.

The concept and the initiative coordination has been led by Carlo Francini, head of the UNESCO Office of the Municipality of Florence, in collaboration with Giulia Coco and Enrico Sartoni of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno, and Stefano Valentini, CAMNES.

THE FIRST EVENT of the INITIATIVE: Workshop-exhibition "Florence 1815. The return of the Venus"

Place: Accademia delle Arti del Disegno, via Orsanmichele 4, Florence

Time: 21 DECEMBER 2015 - 31 JANUARY 2016

Considering the historical perspective, **the first event of this initiative** has been inspired by the celebration of exactly 200 years to the return to Florence of the artworks stolen by Napoleon Bonaparte between 1799 and 1813. Thus, from Monday, December 21, the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno of Florence will be hosting **a workshop-exhibition, called "Florence 1815. The return of the Venus"**, and a series of public events dedicated to the threats and the endangered heritage in times of conflict. This has the aim of illustrating and raising public awareness on an issue, well-known among scholars and specialists, but less-known among the community.

The dramatic paintings and sculptures looting from Palazzo Pitti, Uffizi Gallery and some convents, and their repatriation on **December 27, 1815** -thanks to the work of the academics Giovanni Degli Alessandri and Pietro Benvenuti - will be remembered during the conference of the 21 December, held by Chiara Pasquinelli and Gabriele Paolini, and during the workshop-exhibition at the exhibition hall of Palazzo de' Beccai.

The workshop-exhibition will investigate and rebuild, through documents, works and educational means, the complex requisitions events led by the French army and by Dominique Vivant Denon, director of the Musée Napoleon. The workshop will pay a particular attention to the Medici Venus in the Uffizi, icon of the stolen artistic heritage of Tuscany, which will be illustrated through a rich iconography.

The ancient statue "Medici Venus", craved by Napoleon for completing the wing of his Musée related to ancient sculpture, and taken by fraud by the Frenchs in 1802, represents the emblem of the risks to which cultural heritage is constantly subject especially during particular historical time periods.

In January other conferences, concerning the history of Florence during Napoleon time, are planned. During these conferences, there will be the interventions of scholars and specialists such Giovanni Cipriani,

Francesco Vossilla, Liletta Fornasari and Antonella Gioli; the figures of Giovanni Degli Alessandri and Pietro Benvenuti will be deepened; and there will be the recitating of sonnets and odes, composed in 1816 on the occasion of the art works return to Florence. The initiative will end on January 31, 2016.



FIRST EVENT

"Firenze per il Patrimonio in Pericolo. Florence for # Unite4Heritage"

21 December 2015 -31 January 2016

Workshop-exhibition, curated by Giulia Coco, Carlo Francini, Enrico Sartoni and moderated by Ettore Spalletti.

PROGRAMME

21 December 2015

5 PM

Institutional greetings and presentation of the initiative "Firenze per il Patrimonio in Pericolo".

Moderator: Ettore Spalletti

Speakers: Chiara Pasquinelli, "L'Arte contesa: dallo spoglio di Pitti ai 'trasferimenti' di Dominique Vivant Denon, passando per il rapimento della *Venere* a Palermo".

Gabriele Paolini, "Dalla Senna al toscano lido". Il recupero delle opere d'arte nel 1815".

6.30 PM

Inauguration of the workshop-exhibition "Florence 1815. The return of the Venus"

The workshop-exhibition will be open from 21 December 2015 to 31 gennaio 2016.

Hours: Monday 10-12.30 / 14.30-17, Wednesday 10-13. Special openings hours. Free admission.