



**30 September 2024**  
**Museo Novecento**

## **WORLD HERITAGE CITIES**

### **Places of Inspiration for Contemporary Creation**

The year 2024 opened for Florence with an important event, aimed at sanctioning the dialogue between the city's heritage and contemporary creation. After nearly fifty years of debates and proposals, on 27 February 2024 Henry Moore's artwork *Warrior with Shield* was in fact placed on the Terrace of Saturn in Palazzo Vecchio, one of the building's most evocative spaces, thus making the great British artist's dream come true.

Although in recent decades it has been possible to admire the sculpture in the first courtyard of the monumental complex of Santa Croce, where it remained until a few years ago, there have been many missed opportunities to place the artwork in this location, so beloved by Moore himself.

The 'homecoming' of the Warrior was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism "UNESCO Sites and Creative Cities Fund" and the successful collaboration of all the institutions involved, as well as the heirs. On this occasion, an accurate restoration was also carried out by the Opificio delle Pietre Dure in Florence.

Today, the sculpture is finally in the place where the artist had imagined it: the beautiful corner loggia overlooking Via dei Leoni and the Loggia del Grano and offering a marvelous view of Santa Croce, San Niccolò Tower, Piazzale Michelangelo, Forte di Belvedere and the hill of San Miniato. The artwork can thus finally establish an intense and close dialogue not only with the masterpieces housed inside the Palazzo, a veritable treasure chest of pictorial and sculptural treasures narrating the history of Florence from the 14th century onwards, but also with the magnificent surrounding territory.

Taking this extraordinary event as a starting point, the Museo Novecento and the Florence World Heritage and UNESCO Office of the Municipality of Florence intend to discuss about the links between UNESCO World Heritage cities and artistic inspiration by organising a conference to explore the relationship between contemporary creativity and the art of the past and the possible effects on the territory of this never-to-be-expected link.

The conference, also organised with the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism "UNESCO Sites and Creative Cities Fund" in the framework of the project "FEEL FLORENCE: from digital transition to sustainability for a renewed tourist destination", aims at fostering a cultural exchange between artists, scholars and experts from different disciplines, involved in a choral narrative centred on their own direct experiences with World Heritage cities.



Through testimonies and reflections on creative processes, this event will also make it possible to deepen the relationship between local and mass tourism and to hypothesise new perspectives on touristic flows. The conference is linked to the international workshop on good practices related to sustainable tourism organised by UNESCO in April 2024.

The interventions will be divided into two thematic areas:

### **1. Contemporary Creation in Artist Residencies**

In this section, critics and curators are invited to share their experiences on the work with artists in residence who lived in art cities and drew inspiration from them.

### **2. Artistic Languages to Tell the World Heritage Story**

This section is devoted to the work of artists who over time have drawn inspiration from World Heritage cities, interpreting the universal value of these places with personal languages. Historical interventions, centred on Henry Moore's case study, will be flanked by contributions more closely addressed to the contemporary, thanks to the involvement of artists and operators in the sector.