

PRESS RELEASE

Florence, 7 February 2011

Istituto degli Innocenti To Attend Italian Festival in Bahrain

The artistic and historical heritage of this ancient institution dating back to the Renaissance is to play a major role in the event organised by the Italian Embassy. The MUDI, or Museo degli Innocenti, will be presenting its "Adopt a Work of Art" campaign in an effort to find partners interested in the restoration of its works of art and of its monumental architecture

The Istituto degli Innocenti will be taking part in the third Italian Festival in Bahrain, from 2 to 17 February 2011, to present the MUDI - Museo degli Innocenti's artistic and architectural heritage to the public of the United Arab Emirates.

The MUDI is attending the Bahrain event in an effort to discover international partners interested in sponsoring the new museum layout and in restoring its works of art, which recount a history of child shelter over six centuries long.

The institute will be presenting its "Adopt a Work of Art" campaign in the course of the [Gala Dinner and Italian Grand Ball](#) at the Diplomat Hotel in Manama on 10 February. With this campaign, the Museo degli Innocenti is planning to create a network of sponsors interested in helping to restore and to enhance some of the works of art and architecture situated in its historic seat, designed by no less a figure than 15th century architect Filippo Brunelleschi.

"The Italian Festival is a major opportunity for acquainting a broad audience with the Innocenti's heritage," explained the Istituto's president, Alessandra Maggi, who will be in Bahrain with MUDI curator Stefano Filipponi and with the institute's Public Relations director Cecilia Sandroni. Maggi added: "We are the repositories of a vast heritage of universal value that is not merely artistic or of a documentary nature but also historic and social; and it has come down to us from the Renaissance, an era that devoted a great deal of attention and commitment to the more 'fragile' members of society. The mission that the Innocenti has been pursuing without a break for the past six centuries is now being highlighted on the international stage. We wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Italian Embassy for inviting us to take part in this initiative".

The public attending the Festival will be able to choose between seven works of art that require "adopting": four paintings dating from the 14th to the 17th centuries, including a triptych by Giovanni di Francesco Toscani depicting a "Madonna and Child with Saints", and three of the ancient Hospital's most important architectural features: the façade, with its loggia by Brunelleschi; the Men's Courtyard; and the Women's Courtyard.

The presentation of the works of art will be accompanied by the screening of a slideshow on Florence and the history of the Innocenti produced by Centrica, florentine company leading in services for the cultural assets sector.

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