

## PRESS RELEASE

### "Will the World Save Beauty?"

#### Prevention and safety for Cultural Heritage protection

Rome - National Museum of Castel Sant'Angelo - from July 13 to November 4, 2021

*Concept and organization: European Centre for Tourism and Culture*

*Curatorship: Vincenzo Lemmo*

On **Monday, July 12 at 5.00 P.M.** at the **National Museum of Castel Sant'Angelo**, the Italian Minister of Culture **Dario Franceschini** will inaugurate the exhibition entitled: ***WILL THE WORLD SAVE BEAUTY? - Prevention and safety for Cultural Heritage protection.***

This event is designed and organized by the European Centre for Tourism and Culture in Rome **chaired by Giuseppe Lepore** together with the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage Security of the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Carabinieri Department Cultural Heritage Supervision (CCTPC), and the National Museum of Castel Sant'Angelo **under the lead of Mariastella Margozzi.**

In this particular time for the world, marked by the pandemic, everyone has been looking for the tools to win this *invisible war*, so we felt it appropriate to stress the importance of beauty in its best artistic and spiritual production. Indeed, beauty appears to be the only possible weapon to save our consciences and satiate our instinctive longing for beauty. In a way, what we need today is for ***beauty to save the world.***

Yet, are we able to preserve this precious resource? As custodians of this immense heritage, how do we secure it to hand it down to the future? In other words, we ask ourselves: will the world save beauty?

The idea of holding this exhibition came from this very question. One of the primary purposes of the collection is to display the finds recovered by the **Carabinieri Unit for Cultural Heritage Supervision**, chaired by the age-long defender of our historical and artistic treasures, **Brigadier-General Roberto Riccardi**, another, unprecedented, purpose is to show the prevention and safeguard systems implemented by museums and cultural State sites, coordinated by the **General Directorate for Cultural Heritage Security of the Italian Ministry of Culture**, chaired by **Marica Mercalli.**

The exhibition will feature different sections: through images and storytelling, visitors will discover ***stories of recovery***, preservation, and protection.



The selected material on display truly expresses this **storytelling idea**, ranging from masterpieces by such artists as Brueghel up to the Veronese area, to charming finds including a fragment of the obelisk located in Montecitorio, and which resulted from the work of the Carabinieri Department Cultural Heritage Supervision itself. Therefore, one section will be entirely devoted to the **recovery of cultural heritage** and the investigations that led to the retrieval and subsequent securing of illegally stolen objects. The exhibition will show how today's world wide **web** is both a way to spread and sell these objects, and at the same time an ally for their defense against illegal trafficking through the implementation of databases.

Saving art also implies safeguarding our "treasure" by preventing it from crossing national borders. The **Export Offices of the Italian Ministry of Culture**, alongside the Carabinieri, carried out this difficult task with steady commitment by monitoring the circulation and sale of art objects, thereby preventing a tragic **cultural haemorrhage**. Once again, using web platforms, creating databases, and keeping track of national and international auctions play a very important role.

Protecting art and its beauty requires taking action in **emergency scenarios** where safeguarding cultural heritage becomes a pressing and delicate task. In **seismic areas** of our national territory and other places affected by **natural disasters**, the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Carabinieri Unit for Cultural Heritage Supervision have made an important commitment by instituting the **Blue Helmets of Culture**. The recent earthquakes in Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria, have shed light on some critical issues. Moreover, they have been an excellent training camp and resulted in a model that has been exported to several foreign countries, according to an agreement with the Italian Civil Protection Department and UNESCO. Since the purpose of this exhibition was to allow everyone to enjoy stories and messages of hope, the artworks will be accompanied by panels and captions in **Braille** and embossed reproductions for the visually impaired people. An analysis of the different aspects of this exhibition will lead us to conclude that the world and our civil society will save the beauty of art and culture, both symbols of our identity.

To download the press kit and all the images: <https://we.tl/t-Z0IVoTnCam> (link valid until July 13)

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**LOCATION: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CASTEL SANT'ANGELO - Lungotevere Castello, 50 - ROME**

**INAUGURATION: Thursday, July 12, 2021 at 17.00**

**OPENING HOURS: from Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 19.30 (last admission at 18.30)**

**OPENING TO THE PUBLIC: Friday, July 13, 2021**

**CLOSING TO THE PUBLIC: Every Monday**

