



THE PRESIDENT

Firenze, 21 December 2010

As we approach the end of yet another year, once more favored with success and satisfaction for our Associations, I cannot help but think of the multitude of affectionate Friends that far and wide keep giving us their support, making it possible for us to contribute to the life of “our” museum, not only by accepting the curators’ and director’s proposals for important projects, but also by providing for more immediate needs: the frame for an altarpiece here, the glass for a painting there, walking through corridors and rooms of the Gallery we take great pride in seeing traces of our achievements, big and small.

One of the great traces left this past year was the restoration of other marvellous works by Filippo Lippi: two panels portraying the *Annunciation and two saints*, and two splendid altarpieces: the “Annalena Altarpiece”, and the “Altarpiece of the Novitiate” together with the predella by Pesellino, seen in its original entirety for the first time since its dismemberment during the Napoleonic wars; for the occasion the three original panels were reunited with the other two on loan from the Louvre, and we covered transportation and insurance expenses.

Such ambitious projects were supported by our American Friends, and together we can pride ourselves on being the major modern patrons of Lippi, having funded the restoration of all of his artworks present in the Gallery. Again, thanks to contributions from the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery two more statues of the third corridor could be restored: the white hanging Marsyas and another Asclepius.

In October a group of these American donors came to spend a special weekend in Florence and to admire firsthand the restoration work accomplished also thanks to their support, including the grandiose Laocoon marble group and all the other ancient sculptures restituted last year. With passion and enthusiasm they strive to promote events and initiatives to help us realize our many other long-cherished dreams.

To conclude, I would like to invite you to visit the traditional “Mai Visti” Christmas exhibition, organized by Amici degli Uffizi with the Uffizi Gallery, that this year is exclusively devoted to self-portraits by women artists, from XVI Century paintings to the more modern expressions encompassing sculptures, photographs and graphic works; the show will include twenty new acquisitions through donations, one of which attained via the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery.

I reiterate my own and the whole Board’s thanks and gratitude to all the Amici who have been faithfully following us for a long time, to the American Friends, to the very many young members that we trust will learn to love and respect art as everyone’s heritage, and to the newer associates that will hopefully go on embracing our ideals. To you all, best wishes for the new year.

Maria Vittoria Colonna Rimbotti