



For Immediate Release

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**ROBERT B. SIMON TO SPEAK  
AT FRIENDS OF THE UFFIZI GALLERY BRUNCH**

*Art historian known for the "lost" Leonardo da Vinci painting will share his discovery story*

**PALM BEACH, FL** (January 14, 2014) – Friends of the Uffizi Gallery have announced that **Robert B. Simon, PhD**, will be the special guest at their annual brunch on February 16, 2014 during the Palm Beach Jewelry, Art & Antiques Show. Dr. Simon will provide information about his discovery of Leonardo da Vinci's, "Salvator Mundi" painting in a lecture titled, "Leonardo Lost and Found."

**2014 Annual Friends of the Uffizi Gallery Brunch – Event Information**

**WHO:** Guest lecturer, Robert Simon, PhD  
**WHAT:** Annual Friends of the Uffizi Gallery Brunch  
**WHERE:** Palm Beach Jewelry, Art & Antiques Show  
Palm Beach County Convention Center  
650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33401  
**WHEN:** Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 11:30am  
**TICKETS:** \$100.00 per person at <http://2014friendsofuffizibrunch.eventbrite.com>

***Please note: Dr. Simon is available for interviews prior to this event.***

Called "the most thrilling art discovery of our time," the saga of da Vinci's, "Salvator Mundi" is an intriguing tale. The poignant oil painting, which depicts Christ making the sign of the blessing, was last recorded in the collection of King Charles I in 1649. And then it seemed to have vanished. That is, until it was presented to Dr. Simon, an art historian and specialist in European and American Fine Arts, after

being acquired from previous owners during an estate sale. The discovery of the “Salvator Mundi” is made even more significant because the work is one of only fifteen surviving paintings by da Vinci. Dr. Simon will speak about how da Vinci's *pentimento* (change of mind) helped him and colleagues correctly attribute the work, which was ultimately included as part of an exhibit at the National Gallery in London in 2011.

Dr. Simon is an art historian and private dealer with offices in New York City and Tuxedo Park, N.Y. He received both his undergraduate and graduate education at Columbia University, completing his doctorate in art history with a dissertation on the Florentine painter Bronzino. As an art historian Dr. Simon has written numerous articles for scholarly and museum publications in the realms of old master and nineteenth-century paintings. He has lectured widely on both art-historical matters and on broader concerns relating to the authenticity, valuation, conservation, and commercial trade of works of art.

Musical entertainment will be provided during the brunch part of this event by **Frank Cerabino**, who will play traditional Italian music on the accordion. Funding and promotion for this event has been graciously provided by **Gordon and Laney Lewis** of the **Fine Arts Conservancy** in West Palm Beach, Florida; **Mr. Joseph Raskauskus, Esq.** of Palm Beach; **Scott Diament, president of the Palm Beach Show Group**; the **Consul General of Italy in Miami** and **South Florida Opulence** magazine.

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**Friends of the Uffizi Gallery** was founded in Palm Beach, Florida in 2006 as the sister organization to Italy's *Amici degli Uffizi*. That organization was created in 1993 in Florence, Italy to raise funds to aid the museum after a terrorist bombing caused significant structural damage to the building and badly damaged or destroyed a number of irreplaceable artworks. Today, under the direction of president Countess Maria Vittoria Colonna Rimbotti, the two organizations together raise awareness about the Uffizi's historical significance and raise funds for restorations through educational outreach and special events. In 2013, the Uffizi Gallery was named the, “world's greatest gallery” by *The Times of London* and is listed as one of the world's top 10 museums in *National Geographic*. For more, please visit: <http://www.friendsoftheuffizigallery.org>