

Friends of the Uffizi Gallery's Restoration of 16th Century Valois Tapestries Announced at Christie's

NEW YORK, NY--(Marketwired - April 18, 2016) - **Friends of the Uffizi Gallery**, a non-profit organization comprised of U.S. donors who support the restoration and maintenance of some of the greatest works of art in Western culture at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, announced a new restoration project, the Valois Tapestries, during a reception at Christie's New York on Monday, April 11.

Established in 2006 in Palm Beach, Florida as the "sister" organization to Italy's *Amici degli Uffizi*, the organization has funded the restoration of 42 priceless works of art as well as the famed Michelangelo Room at the museum.



The tapestries are comprised of a series of eight panels woven with silk, wool, silver and silver-gilt thread, thought to have been executed in about 1575. They are based on designs by Antoine Caron, who in 1561 had been appointed the court painter by Catherine de' Medici, queen of France, and her husband, King of France Henry II.

"We were so pleased to have been able to bring attention to this significant restoration project. Four of the eight tapestry restorations have been funded, thus far, and we are hoping that people will step forward to help with the other four much needed and historically important restorations," Lisa Marie Conte Browne, Executive Director of the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, said.

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 Contessa 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.

About the Valois Tapestries

The Valois Tapestries were originally commissioned for the Queen of France, Catherine de Medici, the most influential woman of the Renaissance and a member of one of the most influential patron families of that time. The tapestries were produced in about 1575 in Brussels, which was the pinnacle of excellence for tapestries during the Renaissance.

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