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Mrs. Victor J. Scaravilli
Chairman, Advisory Board for Friends of the Uffizi Gallery
&
Mrs. Helen H. Abell and Mrs. Patrick S. Parker
Luncheon Chairmen

*Cordially invite you
to*

A Luncheon

Presented by
Private Client Group at National City
in support of

The American Friends of the Uffizi Gallery

*Featuring a discussion on art preservation,
collecting and planning for major collections of art and antiques
by*

 Contessa Maria Vittoria
Anne-Imelda Radice 
Robert W. Koo
William Besch

Friday, February 13th
Noon
Club Colette

215 Peruvian Avenue
Palm Beach

Please RSVP by February 9th to Susan Bardisa 561.650.1419



Countess Maria Vittoria Rimbotti, Born Princess Colonna di Paliano

Maria Vittoria Rimbotti (as she prefers to be called) is a well respected and influential patroness of the arts in Italy.

She is the president and founding member of the Amici degli Uffizi in Florence. Since 1993, the Amici degli Uffizi has supported the Uffizi Gallery in Florence by facilitating acquisitions, supporting restorations and organizing special temporary exhibitions. In addition she is the regional president of FAI – Fondo Italiano Ambiente – Toscana (the Italian equivalent of the UK's National Trust – a national non-profit organization which aims to both protect and restore artistic and natural environments as well as open them up to the general public). Her involvement extends beyond the visual arts as a board member of the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, one of Italy's most well known and respected music institutions, whose mission it is to increase access to musical education and achieve very high qualifications for young musicians.

Maria Vittoria Rimbotti's knowledge of the arts has earned her a position on the Steering Committee for the allocation of all non-profit funds at the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, the foundation behind the Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze. The latter is Florence's most important and historic local savings bank. In addition, she is a member of the Cultural Sub-Committee which decides which cultural projects to give funding to.

When she isn't serving the cultural needs of her community, Maria Vittoria Rimbotti is responsible for her family's real estate company business developments and special projects. In recognition for her success in this entrepreneurial role, Maria Vittoria Rimbotti, between 1990 and 1996, was the president of the Tuscan delegation of AIDDA (the Italian Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Executives). From 1996 to 2002 she was national vice president. She is still the honorary president of the the Tuscan delegation.

Maria Vittoria Rimbotti has won many honorary awards, all of which relate to her work in the cultural sector:

- *The title of Accademico D'Onore from the Fine Arts Academy of Florence 30/11/2004;*
- *The Salomone D'Oro prize from the University of Florence 13/12/2004; and*
- *The Nelli Award to recognize her as a Patroness of the Arts by the Florence Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC (2006).*

Born in Naples, Maria Vittoria Rimbotti carried out her university studies in literature and philosophy at Naples University.



Anne-Imelda Radice, Ph.D., is a distinguished art and architecture historian, museum professional, and administrator. On December 13, 2005, the President of the United States nominated Anne-Imelda Radice to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Institute, an independent United States government agency, is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

Dr. Radice began her career in arts administration in 1971 at the National Gallery of Art as Assistant Curator and Staff Lecturer. Following this position she developed an information and conservation system for 55,000 historic drawings while serving in the Office of the Architect of the U.S. Capitol, first as Architectural Historian, and then as Curator. During this time she also initiated art restoration and conservation programs for the U.S. Capitol and other buildings under its jurisdiction.

In 1983 Wilhelmina Holladay appointed Dr. Radice to the Director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to displaying works by women artists. By the end of her directorship, the NMWA's budget had grown to \$4 million and its membership had reached 100,000. Her next pursuit was as Chief of the Creative Arts Division of the United States Information Agency (USIA). There she supervised the presidentially appointed Cultural Property Advisory Committee. The committee, formed in response to the 1970 UNESCO Convention to promote long-term measures to safeguard cultural heritage artifacts.

President George H.W. Bush in May 1992 appointed Dr. Radice to serve as the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts where she oversaw the development, congressional approval, and management of a \$175 million budget and 273 employees. Then in 1998 she was made Executive Director of the Friends of Dresden, Inc. For three years she was responsible for the restoration of the Dresden Synagogue set ablaze during Kristallnacht in 1938, and the reconstruction of the Frauenkirche (Our Lady of Sorrows Cathedral), which dominated the city's skyline from 1794 until 1945. These positions lead her to serve for two years as Executive Director of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation in New York City before she became Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education. Prior to her current post as Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services Dr. Radice was named the Acting Assistant Chairman for Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Radice has authored numerous publications on art and architecture including *The Original Library of Congress: the history (1800-1814) of the Library of Congress in the United States Capitol* (1981). She has a Ph.D. in Art and Architectural History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, an MBA from American University, and a BA in Art History from Wheaton College. Dr. Radice has an MA from the Villa Schifanoia in Florence, Italy and did graduate coursework in northern Italian architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Robert W. Koo is a collector and well respected art succession and philanthropy consultant with Bonhams New York, Philadelphia and Palm Beach since March of 2006. As a value-added art strategist in their Trusts and Estates group, Mr. Koo works with clients, attorneys, CPAs, financial advisors, trust officers, planned giving officers, and corporate fiduciaries on planning for succession and disposition of art, antiques and collectibles. The team practice approach with clients and their professional advisors is to work in complete partnership to mitigate complex collection issues and simplify the generational disposition of art and tangible personal property from Picassos to Bentleys. For more than thirty-five years, Mr. Koo continues to provide

succession and disposition strategies to support clients to maximize the monetary value of art, increase cash flow, reduce capital gains and estate taxes, mitigate provenance risks, and create family and philanthropic capital.

Prior to his tenure at Bonhams, Mr. Koo was the President and Founder of Koo Consulting Group, Inc., an art consulting firm offering its clients collection management and succession planning services for their art and tangible personal property, a position he has held since 1982. From 1971 to 1982, Mr. Koo served as the Administrator and Registrar of the Associated American Artists gallery in New York City.

Mr. Koo is a well recognized worldwide industry leader in inventory documentation and collection management issues for clients with art and tangible personal property. In 1992, Mr. Koo co-founded ArtManager® Online Services, LLC an organization of art and software development professionals that provides web-based applications for art portfolio management. The practice manages over \$2 billion of inventory and collection information for insurance, financial, tax, estate and charitable planning issues. Mr. Koo currently serves as consultant to ArtManager® Online Services and has held such position since 2006. In a recent article, Chubb Insurance interviewed Mr. Koo about Best Practices for Maintaining Records of Your Collection.

Mr. Koo has served as a trustee to the Hudson River Museum and the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, and currently serves as an advisor on art planning for charitable giving to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation, the Norton Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Foundation, the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, the WillPower Project, and other nonprofit organizations. Mr. Koo is also a frequent lecturer to the Florida Bar and has been quoted in several publications regarding art succession and philanthropy, including The Financial Times, Business Week, and Art & Antiques.

Mr. Koo graduated from the Pratt Institute in 1970 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Program

- ❧ “The Season of Medicean Art” – *Reflections on the forefather who established interrelations between patronage, collecting and museums.*
- ❧ 42 Years Later – *How the Florence Floods still shape the Art World*
- ❧ Turning Passionate Collections into Philanthropic Opportunities

Moderator



Bill Besch, is the Senior National Accounts Director with The New York Observer

With over 30 years in the magazine and newspaper publishing industry, Mr. Besch recently joined The New York Observer to expand important categories in the newspaper including the fine and decorative art category. Prior to The New York Observer Mr. Besch was Publisher of Art & Antiques Magazine and involved in the growth and re-launch of the publication in 2007. He was also responsible for orchestrating other panel discussions and content in the magazine to present solutions and perspectives to collectors regarding the issues with art as an alternative asset.

Uffizi Gallery Art and Passion

The Treasure and the Heritage of the Italian Renaissance

❖ *Florence, around 1570*

Giorgio Vasari, painter and architect to Cosimo I de' Medici, is at work on the construction of the Uffizi, the most important and costly operation of the entire sixteenth-century Italy. The grand and majestic building sited near the Palazzo Vecchio, could not have a strong Urbanistic role: with the embrace of its porticos, it dialogues with the square, the site of civil life, while its loggias on the Arno River project towards outlying territories. An admirable synthesis and perfect balance between architecture and town planning, as only the fully-fledged Renaissance could produce. The visitors to Florence are thrilled on visiting the Uffizi to find Botticelli's Primavera, Leonardo da Vinci's Annunciation and the other art masterpieces of all times that it houses. They are also thrilled to be in the same city where great artists lived and worked. Artists such as Giotto, Masaccio, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Brunelleschi undertook their quest for knowledge, and wrote memorable pages in the history of art.

❖ *Florence, May 27, 1993*

The heart of the city is struck by a terrorist bombing. The explosion seriously damaged the Uffizi Gallery and several important artworks... shocking the world.

On July 9 of the same year the non-profit organization Amici degli Uffizi (Friends of the Uffizi) was born with the immediate purpose of opening a direct line with private citizens, organizations etc. who wanted to contribute to repairing the terrible damage and the Gallery management was thus able to count on immediately available funds. So much for the emergency!

Today, the Association purposes to contribute to the safeguarding and growth of the Uffizi Gallery, valorizing its artistic and cultural heritage, favoring activities or restoration, study, research and documentation, and encouraging bequests and donations.

The Uffizi Gallery is considered the world's first public museum with over 1,600,000 visitors per year.

The American Friends of the Uffizi

History and Mission

"To demonstrate the supremacy of culture over barbaric acts." This is the raison d'etre of Amici degli Uffizi, which was founded on July 9, 1993, after the terrorist bomb exploded on May 27 in via dei Georgofili in Florence.

The "Friends of the Uffizi" association receives its support from members and from private sector contributions. The first actions of Amici degli Uffizi were aimed at restoring that which was damaged by the terrorist bombing of May 27, 1993. Today, the Association has reached across to the United States and here in Palm Beach, Florida, Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, Inc. a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization was born to continue the restoration and preservation of the treasures in the Uffizi Gallery which is considered the first Museum in the World.

Friends of the Uffizi Gallery

✦ Lisa Marie Browne, Executive Director

Advisory Board

Board Members 2008-2010

✦ Diann Scaravilli, Advisory Board Chairman

✦ Mary Jo Zingale, Secretary

✦ Helen H. Abell

✦ Diana Bell

✦ Daniela Di lorenzo

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Cover sculpture by:

Baccio Bandinelli

Uffizi Gallery

Florence, Italy

Currently in Restoration and may be viewed on site at the Uffizi Gallery.
The restoration made possible in part by funding from the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, Inc.

Private Client Group at National City

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